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MAGNEWS

The Australian Macintosh Business Magazine

December 1992 / January 1993 Issue 43

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newton

HOW IT
WORKS, AND HOW
YOU'LL USE IT

Pete - 7134216



*meeting with Bob
Hawwood*



*Lunch with Julie
next Tuesday*

*dinner - 8pm
Tuesday*



Xmas

GIFTS

FOR MAC KIDS

A BUYERS GUIDE TO
OCR SCANNING

System 7:

20 FEATURES
APPLE FORGOT

Review:

FILEMAKER PRO 2.0



*Jim Smart
12 Smithfield St.*



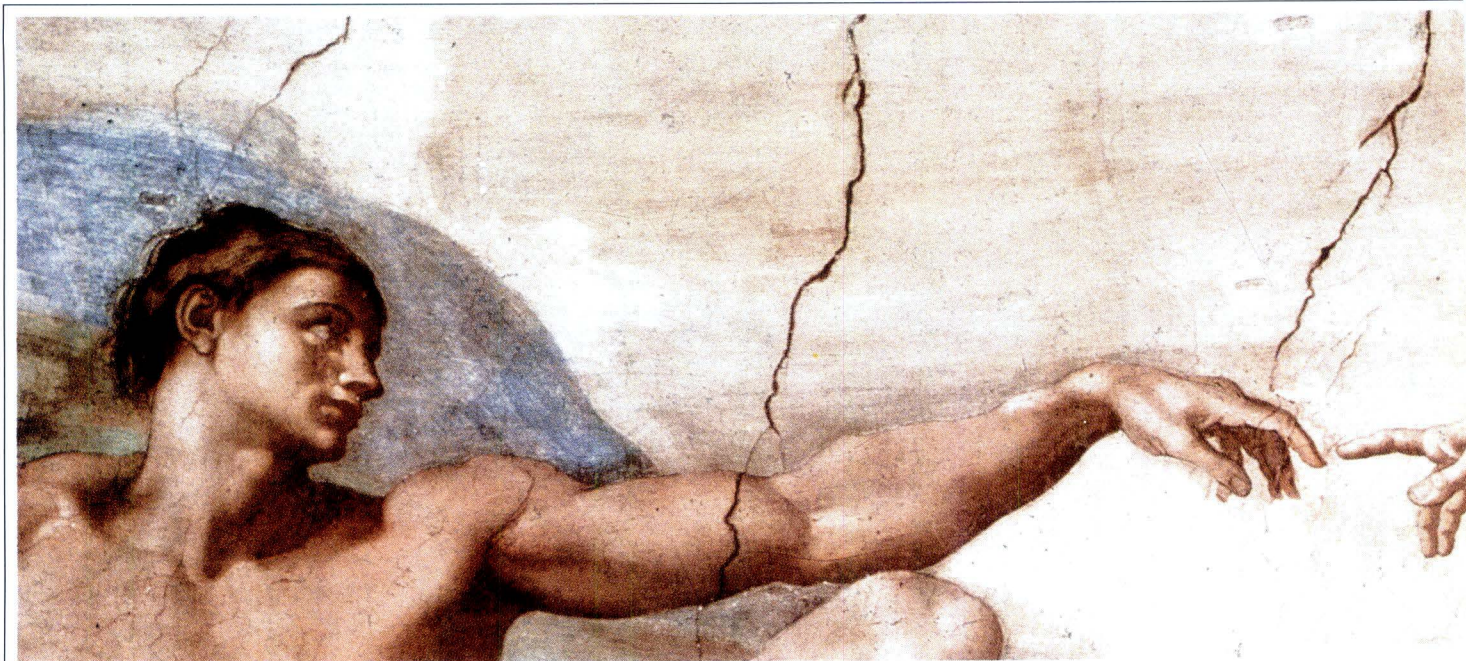
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COVER-OPSIS DESIGN

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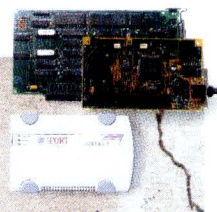
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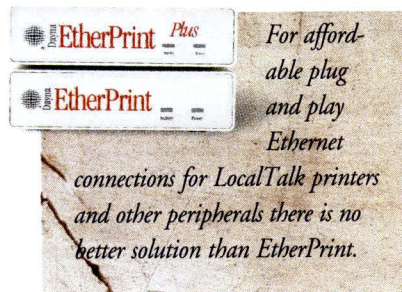
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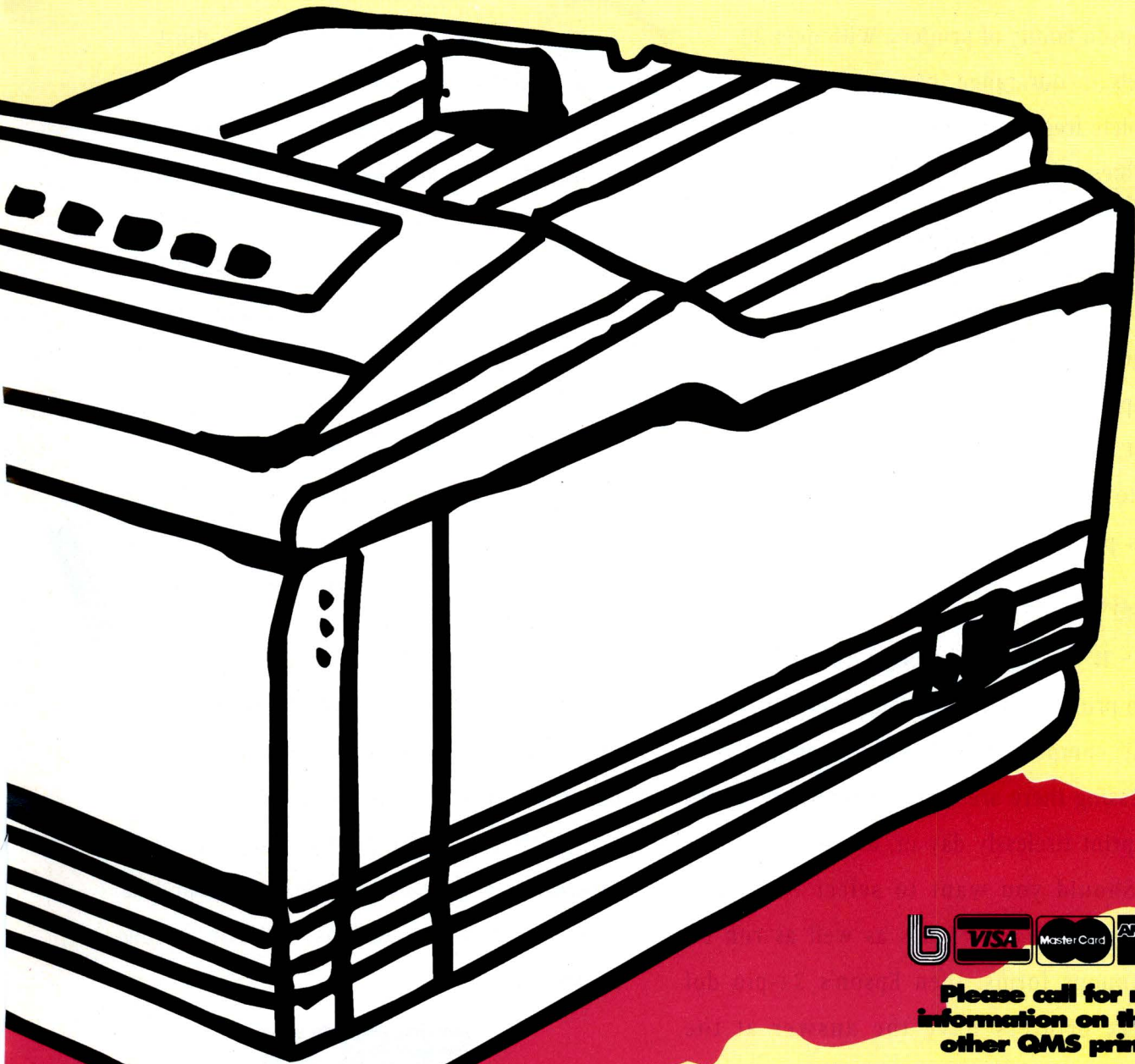
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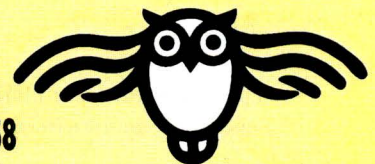
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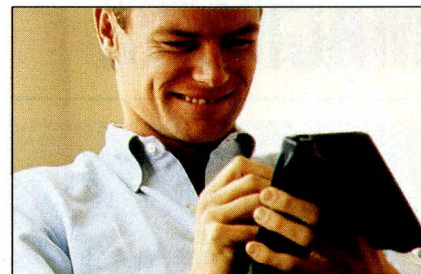
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MAC NEWS



Cover story Pen computing gets personal

A close look at Apple's Newton, its competitors, and how to use Apple's soon-to-be released Personal Digital Assistant.

News

Myer and Grace Bros stores join the Brashes 'superstores' as Apple continues to diversify its distribution channels; the first PDA is released in the US; Microsoft revises Word; PageMaker 5.0 prepares for an early '93 release.

Undercover Mac

Visitors to Tokyo Macworld expo will see the next range of colour Macs, including the Color Classic, the LC III, the Quadra 800, the Centris 610 and 650.

Gadgets and Gizmos

A portable printer half the size of a PowerBook; an accelerator board that gives a Mac IIx Quadra speed; and the 120 Mbyte drives that fit into your shirt pocket.

Customising Your Mac

We look at the 20 most-needed features missing from Apple's operating system, and show you the tools needed to implement them.

Time Out

Our new column on games reveals The Secret of Monkey Island and battles with Warlords.

Text without typing

A buyer's guide to Optical Character Recognition (OCR) scanning.

How to HyperCard

In the final in this series we look at add-ons which enhance HyperCard.

Kids' stuff

A guide to choosing educational software for children at home.

Christmas gifts for Mac kids

We choose the top 10 educational programs for the young.

Business

Dynamics, a new accounting program from Great Plains, will give users simultaneous cross-platform data access.

Review: FileMaker Pro 2.0

FileMaker Pro 2.0 incorporates over 50 new and improved features, but current users will have no difficulty in adjusting to this upgrade.

Review: Database 101

Guy Kawasaki's book teaches the fundamentals of databases in an easy to learn format.

Multimedia

Moviepak brings real-time compression/decompression of full-screen, full-motion video to the Mac.

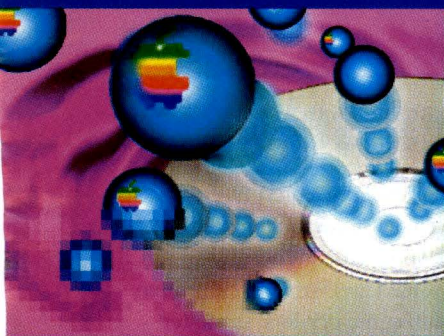
Finding Out

AppleLink goes offline with a CD which includes technical, marketing and support materials from more than 400 hardware and software manufacturers.

Productivity

Fifth Generation and Dantz Development make backing up easier to do; Now's workgroup scheduler gets up to date.

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MacNews is published by Niche Publishing Pty Ltd

A.C.N. 006 984 176

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Witchtype Pty Ltd.

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Hannanprint Victoria

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Contributions including Letters to the Editor are welcomed and should be sent to the above address.

ISSN 1039-2238

Myer and Grace Bros appointed Apple resellers

Apple has announced that select Myer and Grace Bros stores are now stocking Apple products, in line with the company's goal to increase its market share.

This, the company announced, is the second phase of expansion of Apple distribution channels in this country. The first was the announcement in April this year that Brash's 'superstores' would be authorised Apple resellers.

"This reflects Apple's evolving strategy to become even more competitive by continuing to meet the

needs of our customers — especially those who may be considering purchase of a personal computer for the first time," said David Strong, Apple's managing director.

Entry-level Apple products including the Macintosh Classic II 2/40, the LC II 4/40 and 12" RGB colour system, the Apple StyleWriter printer and the Personal LaserWriter and toner bundle are now in stock at 26 Myer and Grace Bros stores nationwide, according to Greg Buchanan, director of retail sales for Apple.

Apple offers new font selection

Apple has introduced its latest retail software product, the Apple Font Pack, a selection of new TrueType fonts from leading type vendors.

The Apple Font Pack comes with a booklet on how to effectively use type and also includes the Apple LaserWriter driver and LaserWriter Font Utility software for using the fonts with Apple and third-party PostScript laser printers.

The Apple Font Pack has 43 fonts, including 25 new Apple fonts — all from leading type foundries — and 18 of the fonts Apple has been shipping with its popular LaserWriter and StyleWriter printers. The fonts can be simply and quickly installed in a one-click operation.

The 25 new fonts will also be added to the library of fonts included with Apple's network printers — the LaserWriter IIf, LaserWriter IIfg and Personal LaserWriter NTR.

The Apple Font Pack is available through authorised Apple resellers, for a

suggested retail price of \$149.

The 25 new fonts included on disk with the Apple LaserWriter IIf and IIfg and Personal LaserWriter NTR printers will not affect the printers' suggested retail prices which remain the same at

\$3995 for the Personal LaserWriter NTR; \$6495 for the LaserWriter IIf, and \$7995 for the LaserWriter IIfg.

The Apple Font Pack requires a Macintosh personal computer running System 7. The LaserWriter IIf, IIfg and Personal LaserWriter

NTR printer font sets are compatible with Macintosh computers running System 6.0.7 or System 7. Once installed, the fonts are compatible with any Macintosh printer or output device, and third-party printers.

The 25 new fonts include Delphian; Nadianne; Oxford; Lucida; ITC Garamond; Zeal; ITC Machine; ITC Lubalin Graph; Helvetica Black; Helvetica Compressed; Old English; Swing Bold and Onyx.



Microsoft announces Word 5.1

Microsoft has announced the availability of a new upgrade for Microsoft Word for Macintosh. Version 5.1, previewed at the recent Sydney Macworld expo, features a new customisable Toolbar that gives users one-click access to frequently-used features. Depending upon monitor size, up to 30 buttons can be added to the Toolbar.

PowerBook users will have the option of a custom installation feature which will install a substantially smaller version (2.2 Mbytes) of Word 5.1, and include a battery indicator on the ruler. According to Microsoft, this version is designed to maximise the PowerBook's battery life by accessing the hard drive less frequently.

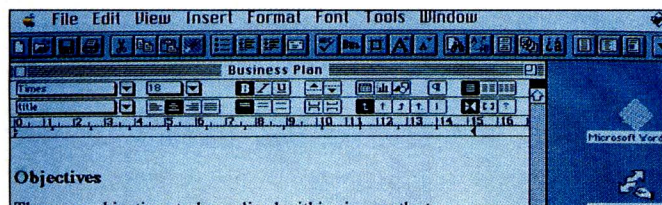
Word 5.1 includes support for Object Linking and Embedding (OLE), Microsoft's answer to Publish and Subscribe. Objects can be created, linked and embedded in Word 5.1 documents. OLE keeps track of the links between a document and its original components, updating them as they change.

The new version Word also ships with Microsoft Graph which creates 2D and 3D graphs from Word tables when users click on the Graph icon. This module, which requires System 7, can also be found in Microsoft PowerPoint 3.0.

QuickTime movies can be added to any Word document with the Movie Plug-In Module which is now installed as part of the product, rather than available as a stand-alone module as it was in Word 5.0. Word's spellchecker, criticised by users for its lack of speed, is now faster and users who work on long documents now have access to page and footnote referencing.

Other features include the ability to add drop caps to text, an enhanced Find file utility that lets users restrict searches by folder and an improved draw module that can group and ungroup objects.

Word 5.1 is now available at \$595 RRP. Registered users can upgrade from Word 5.0 for the nominal charge of \$25, or from Word 4.0 or earlier for \$210. Contact Merisel on 02 882 8888 for more details.



Word 5.1 includes a user configurable toolbar which provides instant point and click access to commonly used features.

Largest computer dealer forced to close

HiSoft, the largest computer dealer group in Australia, has closed following the recent appointment of a receiver after its bank pulled the plug. Three of the company's four divisions were sold to pay off creditors (including IBM and Compaq) who were believed to be owed as much as \$30 million.

According to the receiver, the remaining PC division, the company's largest operating unit, was unable to be sold, making the company's closure inevitable. As a result of the closure, 285 staff out of a total of 400 have been retrenched.

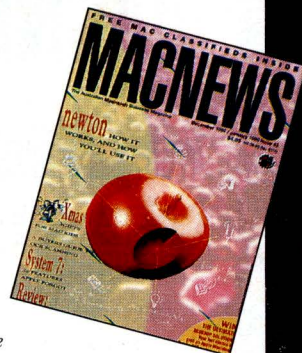
Sources within the company cited the general industry downturn, the move

towards discount dealers and shortage of some product such as the low-cost Compaq models as contributing factors. HiSoft had traditionally supplied high-end corporate and government buyers but many of these were believed to have moved away from HiSoft this year.

The company announced plans earlier this year to open a chain of superstores. It had grown well ahead of the industry for a number of years and some analysts believe it had outgrown its capital so that when sales sagged, the cash flow wasn't there to support the business. Part of the growth had included the takeover of other dealer chains.

About the cover:

This month's cover was designed by a young design team from Melbourne, Opsis. Opsis had previously designed the August issue cover for us, and their work encompasses everything from corporate communications to CD covers. After agreeing on the cover concept, we asked them to give us a step-by-step account of how they achieved the final result.



A photo of a busy city street scene was scanned on an Epson 4000 flatbed scanner as a 300 dpi colour image, and saved as a TIFF file. It was then enlarged in Adobe Photoshop.


A path was created over a section of the background, saved and selected. Using the hue/saturation controls we gave that area of the image a yellow tint. After selecting the remaining area using 'inverse' on the select menu, we applied a red tint.

We defocused the whole image using several 'gaussian blur' filters. However, the image was still too strong for a background and needed toning down. We cut the whole image and then pasted it into exactly the same place. This allowed us to access the paste controls on the edit menu and to add 45 per cent opacity.

To create the green 'slashes' in the background, we went to the outside colour selector and changed it from white to green. We drew a path with the pen tool, selected and deleted it. The resulting 'slash' was copied and pasted to form a pattern. The highlight in the bottom right-hand corner of the cover was a yellow circle, pasted with 50 per cent opacity and cropped off the page.

The apple came as a Photoshop file with a path already saved, so we selected it from its background, copied and pasted it into a new Photoshop file. Selecting an elliptical shape on the apple we used the polar co-ordinates filter. This gave the apple a concave area that suggested a creation of man rather than nature.

The handwriting was selected for its business-like script, and the icons were specifically illustrated in a hand-drawn style. These were scanned in on our flatbed scanner as mono and saved as TIFF files. The Christmas Mac icon was streamlined and coloured in Adobe Illustrator.

The file was saved in CMYK mode as an EPS. All of the elements were then brought together in QuarkXPress. 

PageMaker to take on XPress

The competition between the page layout programs QuarkXPress and Aldus PageMaker has hotted up, with the announcement that QuarkXPress 3.2 is now shipping and that a major upgrade to PageMaker is expected in January 1993.

QuarkXPress 3.2 was announced at the recent Seybold San Francisco expo and includes a colour management QuarkXTension from Electronics for Imaging that automates the colour matching process throughout various devices, such as printers, monitors and imagesetters. EfiColorXT uses a series of "device profiles" for both input and output so as to better approximate the colour output characterisations of files it is attempting to reproduce.

Version 3.2's other new features include faster operation, and the ability to let users automatically backup documents and to save pages in EPS format for both Macs and PCs. The upgrade will come with a runtime version of UserLand Frontier, enabling the writing of Apple events scripts that multiple commands or actions, and can be used to automate repetitive tasks. While upgrade pricing has yet to be determined, pricing is expected to remain the same at \$1495.

Contact Mitsui Computer for more details (02 452 0452).



The EfiColorXT ensures that the colours you see on screen will match the colours that result when printed.

With PageMaker reaching the end of its product cycle, Aldus is expected to begin shipping a major upgrade shortly after Macworld San Francisco that will incorporate some specific features requested by professional users. Those will include incremental rotation of images (image rotation of any user-specified number of degrees), the ability to open multiple publications simultaneously, and what the company

has described as "significantly" faster printing. PageMaker 5.0 is expected to retain its current price (\$1298).

For more information, contact InfoMagic on 02 930 9300.

HyperCard Player bundled with new Macs

Claris has announced it is including a runtime version of HyperCard, called HyperCard Player, with new release Macintoshes, rather than the full version of the program.

The company said that the runtime version includes all the features of HyperCard 2.1 excepting the authoring and scripting user levels. Buyers of new Macs who wish to create their own stacks and scripts will need to buy the HyperCard Development Kit from Claris, \$249 from AAPDA (02 452 8245).

Although the full version of HyperCard which previously shipped with new Macs had advanced features disabled, it was a well-known secret that these features could be accessed simply by typing 'magic' in the program's message box.

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MORE MACS ON THE WAY

If you want the first glimpse at next year's flavours of Macintosh, you'll need to dust off your passport, count your frequent flyer miles, and perhaps take a few singing lessons. (You don't want to make a fool of yourself in the karaoke bars.) Plans are firming for at least five new colour Mac models to make an entrance on February 15 at the Tokyo Macworld expo.

In Apple's continuing name game, there will be a new class of 68040-based desktop machines called the Centris 610 and 650. These machines will bump into the mid-level niche now held by the Mac IIci. The Quadra 800 will replace the 700, and a Mac LC III and Color Classic will bring up the rear of the product line. Apple has been pushed from all sides to move the higher performance models out the door. The company continues to feel the pressure from the PC clone market, and also from its own system software development teams, with power-hungry technologies such as QuickDraw GX, QuickTime, and Open Collaboration Environment.

The Centris 610 will be a pizza-box style model, a little fatter than the LC. It will sport a stripped-down 20 Mhz 68040. This model of the Motorola chip doesn't have all the punch of the standard '040 floating point unit, but its dual 4 Kbyte caches make it around 70 per cent faster than a 33 Mhz 68030. The Centris 610 will have a single slot that can take either a NuBus card, or a processor direct card. It will have enough on-board video to display 16-bit colour on the 16-inch display, or 8-bit colour on the two-page display.

The Centris 650 will be a souped up Mac IIvx. It will use the same CD-ROM prepared case as the IIvx, but will have the

25 Mhz '040 that powered the Quadra 700. Like the Centris 610, it will have a '040 PDS, and will come with 4 Mbytes of soldered-in RAM. The 650 will only have two NuBus slots, with the third going to built-in Ethernet. Apple has hinted that there will be an upgrade path for the Mac IIvx owners that want to move up into the faster '040 lane.

The Quadra 800 will be a petite version of the 950. It will feature a 33 Mhz '040, the PDS, three NuBus slots, and Ethernet. The LC III and Color Classics will finally shake off the crippled label, with 32-bit data paths for greater performance. Apple has not announced upgrade paths for any other existing CPU models.

WHO DO VOODOO?

Reports surfaced in November that the MODE32 memory utility was not compatible with System 7.1. MODE32, developed by Connectix and licensed by Apple for distribution to all Mac users, 'cleans up' Macs with older, dirty ROMs. It seemed that some users had problems when running in 32-bit mode and using virtual memory. Connectix's public relations department worked overtime to get the right spin on the situation. They claimed that most MODE32 users want to address huge hunks of real memory, not the virtual kind. The old blame-the-victim routine.

Memory configuration bugs are always hard to track down, and even more so with a hack like MODE32. Apple was overjoyed to license it last year, when users with dirty ROM-flavoured machines threatened to file a class-action suit for free upgrades. That MODE32 has ever worked is a miracle to some Apple engineers, who had claimed that the hack was nearly impossible. Voodoo programming!

Connectix has been caught flat-footed by falling into the age-old trap — believing Apple's promises. They had not worked on a 7.1-compatible version of MODE32, because of Apple's announced plans that a 'system enabler' was in development, providing the same functionality. No release date has been announced for this technology, which like so many others, was originally slated for the first release of System 7. Then again, the finger-pointing might just be a ploy by Connectix to manoeuvre into a better bargaining position for a new licensing agreement.

HYPERCOLOUR

If you've been holding your breath for Claris to release a new, colour HyperCard, you'd better break out the oxygen bottle. Everyone had expected the SuperCard-killer (ha-ha) to climb out of the cocoon last summer, but a release date is not in the cards.

The fundamental trouble is that the thing is dog-slow, and the problem appears to be a critical programming decision made early on in the product design process. Unfortunately, there's no way to tweak the current colour version into an acceptable product. Everyone is wringing their hands and passing the buck.

One scenario under serious consideration would return programming responsibility to Apple, while leaving marketing and technical support with Claris. The Apple engineers have come up with a plan for a completely rewritten HyperCard, which would replace HyperTalk with AppleScript. In the meantime, look for Spring release of an interim HyperCard version, with bug fixes and perhaps a few enhancements. **MM**

See as well as talk over phone lines with Cameo

NetComm has announced that it will be distributing the Cameo Personal Video System for the Macintosh from Compression Labs Incorporated (CLI). The Cameo allows callers to talk and view each other during conversations in a window on their Mac screen.

NetComm describes the Cameo as a voice and video communication system with two-way colour-motion video for the Macintosh over ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network). ISDN involves special network lines that transmit digital data as opposed to analogue information transmitted by regular telephone lines.

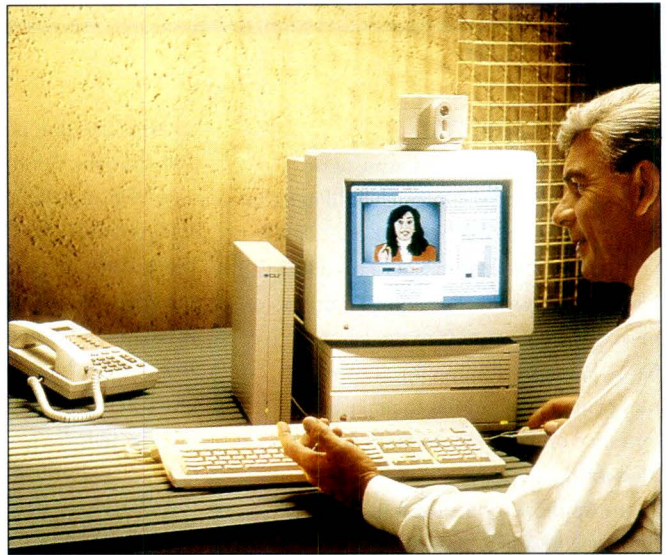
Communications take place via a user-controlled window in either 6-inch, 3-inch or 1.5-inch diagonal area on the monitor. Once a voice call is initiated, both callers can then switch to video and view each other on screen during the conversation. Also, Macintosh applications can be running at the same time, and

data may be transmitted from the application running on the computer directly to the receiving party during the call.

A video processor module sits next to the Mac and plugs into the serial port. The camera module mounts on top of the monitor to capture the image and a self-view mode allows the user to see the transmission and make adjustments to themselves or reposition the system's camera. Basic telephone features, such as a directory with speed dial, a hold function for video and audio, audio mute and automatic redial are all built-in.

The Cameo Model 2001 operates at 128 kilobits-per-second (kbps) with 64 kbps devoted to the audio and 64 kbps devoted to video. It can run up to 15 frames-per-second (15 fps), with a resolution of 128 by 112.

The Cameo Personal Video System, Model 2001 retails for \$5495 inc tax. It requires an ISDN card (it is



NetComm plans to install up to 20 demonstration units of the Cameo Personal Video System in computer reseller outlets throughout Australia and New Zealand.

currently compatible with the EuRoNIS Planet ISDN card which NetComm is also to distribute); a digitising video card (it is compatible with the RasterOps 24STV and XLTV cards), a standard telephone and a Macintosh IIci, IIfx or Quadra running System 7 with QuickTime.

NetComm plans to

distribute additional models of the Cameo, which CLI expects to release next year. These will support the Windows environment on IBM PC compatibles as well as operation over standard analogue telephone lines.

For further details, contact NetComm on 02 888 5533.

The first PDA...and the news is it's not an Apple

Franklin Electronic Publishers has begun shipping what it calls the world's first personal digital assistant, the Digital Book System. By year-end, more than 10,000 retail outlets in the US, including Radio Shack and Sharper Image, will carry the DBS-1 at a retail price of \$US199, the company said.

Mike Strange, the company's executive vice president, discussed the new product with *MacNews*. The system's main chip, the 65816, is made by "Ricoh and Sanyo, among others. We source from several companies. They're all pin-compatible."

Strange confirmed that the device has a proprietary operating system and its plug-in cards do not follow the PCMCIA standard. "They're totally different from PCMCIA. They're Franklin Digital book cards. They're slightly thicker than a matchbook. They're unique to Franklin."

While the new system is a stand-alone system into which databases can be plugged-in through the cards, Strange said a second version in mid-1993 will have a serial port for connections to other equipment. "That will give you full connectivity to other host systems. You'll

be able to communicate with a modem card. We're going after developers, with a developers' kit at Comdex, so a professional developer can get, for \$US500, everything he needs to create applications" under the system.

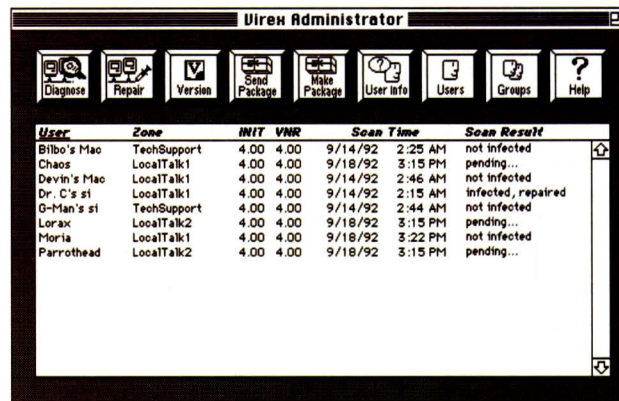
Strange also defended the company's design decisions. "It's totally incompatible with everything else, by design. Two PCMCIA cards stacked on one another are the size of a single digital book" in the Franklin system. "We couldn't reach our price points with those architectures -

Cont. 106

Anti-virus packages patrol across networks

Any network administrator faced with the task of regularly updating the virus detection programs across a network knows how time-consuming the task can be. The answer was to use a program such as NetDistributor and GraceLAN Update Manager which profiles application use across a network and sends software updates to individual computers on the network. Now Symantec and Microcom have come up with their own answers to the problem.

Both Symantec's AntiVirus for Macintosh 3.0 and Norton Utilities for Macintosh 2.0 and the latest release of Microcom's Virex (version 4.0) which is due out early next year, can be quickly installed on select computers or across entire local or wide area networks (LANs and WANs) without recourse to a separate network administration program.



The nasty task of keeping Macs virus free will be made easier with the network-savvy Virex 4.0.

However, the latest version of Virex will offer what network administrators have really been waiting for; the ability to diagnose and repair viruses across networks.

Version 4.0 of Virex can be set to scan an entire network for viruses at a user specified time, and allow workstation users

the option of either postponing, cancelling or accepting the process.

AntiVirus for Macintosh (\$159) and Norton Utilities for Macintosh (\$219) are distributed by Merisel (02 882 8888), while Virex 3.82 (\$149) is distributed by Pica Software (03 326 5255). New pricing for Virex 4.0 has not yet been set.

Third parties announce cheaper docking units for Duos

Third party manufacturers E-Machines, Envisio and RasterOps have announced docking units to compete with those just introduced by Apple for its recently announced PowerBook Duos.

E-Machines has announced the PowerLink DeskNet and Presentor docking stations, anticipated to ship in time to arrive here for Christmas.

The DeskNet is expected to be priced at around \$1200, and will provide twisted pair and thin Ethernet support, and 8-bit colour or grey on 13" and 16" displays (4-bit on 19" screens). ADB, floppy, serial, stereo audio and SCSI ports are also included.

The Presentor, expected to cost less than \$1000, provides an ADB port and floppy drive connection and connection to large screen displays, television screens, and LCD projection panels. E-Machines said that its proprietary convolution technology automatically corrects the flickering normal to unfiltered video output.

Envisio has announced Dynamic Duo, a portable docking unit about the size of a deck of playing cards. It incorporates 16-bit video and stereo sound capabilities, and can display up to 32,000 colours on 13-inch monitors at 640 by 480 dpi resolution and 256 colours on 16-inch displays at 832 by 624 dpi resolution. Envisio says the unit works with Apple monitors up to 16 inches, the Radius Color Pivot, most VGA-compatible monitors, and LCD (liquid crystal display) panels. While users can add an NTSC upgrade for output to a television or VCR, an upgrade PAL (the European and Australian standard) has not been announced. The unit weighs about 0.14 kg.

Expected to ship in January, the Dynamic Duo will be priced at about \$US600, and the company says it will be the first of several docking units offered.

Envisio also markets Color Frame, a flat-panel, active matrix colour display which can be combined with Dynamic Duo.

According to reports, RasterOps is not expected to release its docking station until early 1993. The device, expected to include an ADB connector, floppy disk drive connector and a port for stereo audio output, will enable the Duos to connect to large screen displays and LCD projection panels.

Contact Mitsui Computer (02 452 0452) for further information on docking stations from Envisio and RasterOps; PICA (02 674 6366) for details on the E-Machines units.

QuickTime for Windows

Apple has announced the release of a version of QuickTime for Windows. QuickTime, recently upgraded to version 1.5, is a set of multimedia extensions for the Macintosh operating system, System 7. It is designed to allow the inclusion of multimedia, or video and sound into ordinary applications such as documents created by word-processing software.

Microsoft launches Bulletin Board

Microsoft Australia has launched a bulletin board system (BBS) for its users. The BBS will be a read-only system, with the latest versions of some Microsoft software and technical notes.

The system's main function is to provide users with the latest version of Microsoft's driver software for its various software packages. Also included are programming examples from Microsoft language staff and technical notes for use by programmers and developers.

The BBS can be dialled on 02 870 2348, and offers speeds up to 9600 bits per second. The BBS will operate 24 hours a day, with five lines being open for calls. Access is free, and no password or identification is required.

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Macs get Epson connection

Epson Australia has introduced a product which it claims means 21 new printers for the Macintosh market. Epson Connect! is a hardware and software combination which allows most Macintosh computers to connect to any Epson printer.

The Connect! package consists of cabling, drivers, manuals and a quick-installation guide allowing users to set-up quickly. The product was developed in Sydney and was first shown at last month's Macworld expo in Sydney.

The product allows any Epson printer, including laser printers, to be connected to most Macintosh computers, including Quadras and PowerBooks. The minimum system requirements are a hard disk and at least 1Mbyte of RAM plus System 6.0.5 or later.

There are three versions, matched to different requirements and budgets.

Connect! 1 (\$329) is said by Epson to offer the highest performance and includes a LocalTalk interface which enables the Epson printer to be part of an AppleTalk network.



Connect! 2 (\$299) is aimed at the single user who wants a parallel port connection. It has a serial to parallel converter which connects the Mac serial port to the printer's parallel port.

Connect! 3 (\$99) is the lowest-cost system for single users. It connects to the printer's serial port. A version of the pack is available to add a serial port to the printer if necessary.

Epson printer features include graphics up to 360 x 360 dpi; fast draft mode; System 7 balloon help; sheet feeder support; and TrueType and bitmap fonts.

For more information, contact Epson Australia on 02 452 0666 or fax 02 975 1409.

PSA reports software prices too high

The Prices Surveillance Authority (PSA) has released an interim report on the Australian software industry which recommends allowing the parallel importation of software. According to the PSA, parallel importing and other recommendations included in its report will ease the inflated prices paid by Australian users.

The industry's reaction has been predictable, casting doubt on the accuracy of the evidence used in the report. Australian prices are not inflated, they say, and purchasers here pay less than any other market apart from North America.

Just which party is correct probably won't matter if the PSA gets its way and has the Copyright Act changed to allow parallel importing of software. At present users can import for their own use but are

prevented from reselling. The PSA feels that the market is holding prices artificially high and that competition in importing would correct them.

By taking street price figures from the PSA report and vendor's submissions, it appears that some vendors are inflating prices but most are raising the US price by around 30 per cent. This they say is necessary for support and other costs that the US distributors don't have to provide. The PSA, however feels that prices can be brought down by around 20 per cent and that this will encourage usage and therefore eventually make more jobs.

As expected, industry groups have reacted loudly to the report and are predicting the failure of many importers, a gross reduction in support levels, and many job losses in the industry.

Local Mandarin learning program

A new Australian-developed language learning package which helps students to read and understand Mandarin and to recognise the four spoken tones was launched at the Language Expo Australia held in Melbourne last month.

Called MacZi, the Chinese Character Tutor, the program was developed by Tom Fenton-Kerr and Hereward Fenton (who together form the software company Eye of the Tiger Productions), in association with the IPACE Institute, a division of Unisearch, and the Languages Unit at the University of NSW.

MacZi uses Apple's HyperCard and includes 20 learning units, each incorporating a series of modules which test students in a different language skill. The modules cover over 600 Chinese

characters, augmented with spoken and written words and phrases, and test skills such as aural and visual recognition, as well as more specialised knowledge such as specific stroke-orders and Pinyin (Romanised) translation.

The program includes a ToneTester module which requires active listening in order to teach discrimination of the four tones in Mandarin Chinese. Another module, called Magic Squares, requires recognition of characters from an aural prompt, while the Shuffle Test demands typed input of the Pinyin equivalent of a random character.

An alphabetic index and a search facility enables instant access to all the characters in the database.

It is anticipated that the program will

be used to augment classroom teaching, and as a distance-learning resource. International markets are presently being assessed, and it is thought that it will be especially valuable to corporations which have current or planned projects with China, Taiwan or Hong Kong.

Future releases of the package will include 1200 characters needed for tertiary study in China, by external students, or by someone aiming at working in China. A voice-interactive module is also planned, as is the inclusion of structures that require active production of oral language, and provision for adaptive testing.

For more information, contact Tom Fenton-Kerr or Hereward Fenton at IPACE, University of NSW on 02 697 3726 or 02 697 3175.



The programs graphics are impressive, but so are the easy access buttons and on-line help.



The windows are easy to follow, with basic instructions available in most places so users won't get lost.

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New H-P 600 dpi lasers cost less, include more

Hewlett-Packard (HP) has announced a new generation of 600 dot-per-inch (dpi) laser printers, the HP Laserjet 4 and 4M series. The printers offer increased memory, are network ready, have TrueType fonts built-in, and come in configurations for mixed computing environments.

While the company's laser printers have become standard in the computer industry, HP claims it has priced this new series to be less expensive than its comparable HP Laserjet III 600 dpi series.

HP says the new printers have a newly designed 600 dpi engine rather than an upgraded version of the 300 dpi engine. The printers still use the company's Resolution Enhancement technology designed to smooth jagged edges for crispier images and text, the company said.

The new HP 4M appears to be geared toward the Macintosh user with 6 Mbytes of memory expandable to 22 Mbytes. The printer also offers automatic language and interface switching for Macintosh and mixed computing environments, plus H-P's own page description language HP PCL 5. The printer also comes with a HP Jetdirect LocalTalk card installed for network use.

Adobe Systems says that the 4M printer is the first from H-P to incorporate its PostScript Level 2 page description language.

An Intel 80960 KA-20 megahertz (MHz) reduced instruction set computing (RISC) processor is the intelligence inside the new 8-page-per-minute printers.

The printers offer two trays, a multipurpose tray that holds 100 sheets or

10 envelopes and a 250-sheet letter-size tray. An output tray to which the printed documents arrive face down holds 250 sheets, HP added.

HP Series 4 users can expect to have to buy toner from HP. The new printers use microfine toner particles, which HP says are 20 per cent to 30 per cent smaller than particles used in typical laser printer toner. HP asserts that the microfine toner sharpens edges of text, improves photographic-quality of images, and results in less toner scatter.

The HP LaserJet 4M with PostScript Level 2 is expected to be about \$5940. Contact InfoMagic (02 930 3900) for more details.

Microsoft enters multimedia home electronics market

The Japanese office of Microsoft hopes to develop multimedia home electronics products jointly with major Japanese electronics firms. Although discussions are to start with electronics firms soon, Microsoft is not publicly discussing any potential new products coming from the alliances.

According to the *Nikkei* newspaper, one of the products on Microsoft's drawing boards is a hybrid small computer/fax machine. Others include an electronic notebook, game machines, and a hybrid telephone. All of these products have multimedia features which support pictures, voice, and some interactive data. Also, many of these products have modular Windows operating systems.

Microsoft is seeking alliances with major Japanese electronics makers including Sony and Matsushita Electric. The first meeting is slated for early 1993, according to the published report. It is expected that these firms will talk about possible products at this meeting. If all goes well, an agreement may also include the distribution of the future products.

Now add animation to your presentations

Allaw Technologies has announced the local availability of the animation package from Vividus, Cinemation.

Described by Vividus as "interactive animation software for presentations", the product includes animation, 24-bit colour paint, a CinePlayer module for distributing movies, the MovieWindow XCMD to play movies from HyperCard and 12 Mbytes of clip animation, templates and sounds. In addition to making it easy to create interactive animations from scratch, Cinemation automatically animates presentations created in PowerPoint or Persuasion.

Filmstrips provide a frame by frame storyboard to navigate through movies and to cut and paste frames. Advanced features include Ghosting, Fill in Motion, and Movie within a Movie.

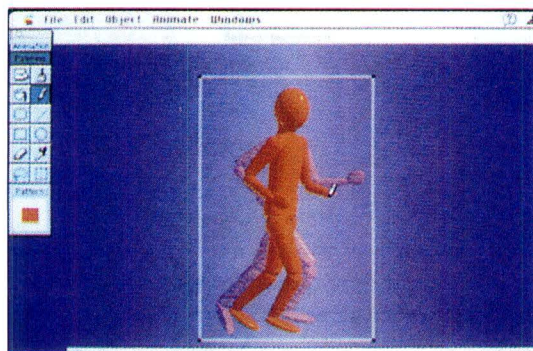
Ghosting displays any series of movie frames through a transparent easel so you can paint in-between frames or align objects using other frame images as a reference. Fill in Motion automatically fills in the motion of an object between two points. While some programs provide a

similar capability (sometimes called 'tweening') for simple motion along a path, Cine-mation also provides filling in motion for cropping, scaling and rotating an object.

Cinemation's Movie within a Movie feature enables users to create nested motion such as wings flapping on a bird while the bird moves forward. There is no limit to the number of objects, the types of motion, or the number of levels of other Movies within Movies that can be nested.

Cinemation is available through Allaw Technologies (02 415 9111). Pricing has yet to be announced.

'Ghosting' shows previous or upcoming frames through a transparent easel.



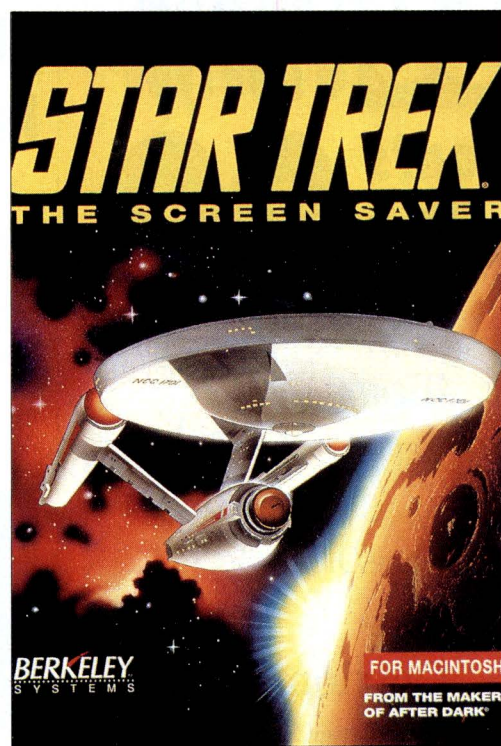
Boldly going where no screen saver has gone before...

Why does anyone need a screen-saver? Personally, we're a little sceptical about the dangers of screen burn-in. If you're going to leave your Mac unattended for any length of time the simplest thing to do is to turn down the screen's brightness control. The truth is you probably don't need a screen saver — but they *look* good.

'Trekkies' and other extraterrestrial beings will of course be interested in Star Trek, The Screen Saver, and its displays of the Enterprise transporter room, Klingon warriors, Romulan vessels and the like. Those already using After Dark can still let their toasters fly within Star Trek, using the same password and system monitoring features.

From Berkeley Systems, Star Trek, The Screen Saver is locally distributed by Trio Technology (03 585 0566), priced at \$84.

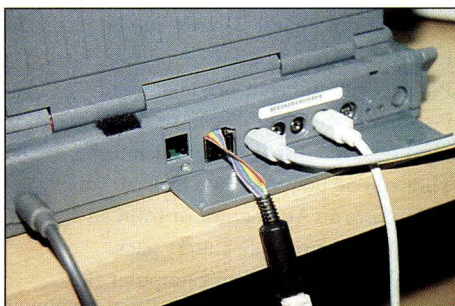
Meanwhile in a distant galaxy (well, okay, in the United States of America) plans are afoot to launch a series of 'Star Trek' virtual reality centres in shopping malls around the country. The centres will be like a store that you pay to get into with virtual reality attractions (where you can choose among a number of game scenarios and characters you want to portray), restaurants, and merchandise areas inside. And for all those who think that's not enough, one of the participating companies, Spectrum Holobyte, also plans to release a 'Star Trek' game on Nintendo's Super NES and anticipated CD-ROM player, on the Philips/CD-I interactive system, and on Macintosh and IBM-compatible personal computers.



PowerBook in, video out

Travelling back and forth between Melbourne and Sydney with a PowerBook 140 under his arm, *MacNews* publisher Mike Hanlon was starting to get mixed up with all his files — there was the Mac in his Sydney office, the Mac in his Melbourne office and the Mac when he was somewhere else. The answer was to get a video-out card for his PowerBook and get rid of the other two computers. His PowerBook is now his only computer and the Video + Board enables him to drive an Apple 13" RGB monitor wherever he goes, in full 256 colours.

Says Mike, "I figure I'd like a dockable Mac but with an external keyboard and monitor plugged into my PowerBook 140 I have Mac IIx power and complete functionality at a much more affordable price. It also freed up two computers — one in Sydney and one in



Melbourne."

The unit is clever enough to switch onto dual screen mode when he has a screen plugged in, or just single screen LCD mode when there's no screen to plug into.

The Video + board fits the PowerBook 140, 145 and 170 and sells for \$1820 ex tax with 4 Mbytes of RAM on board.

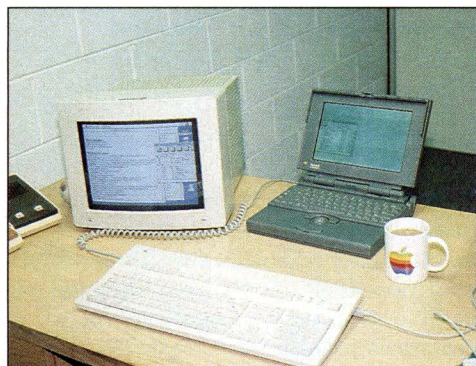
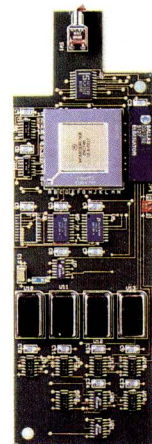
Ring Amicro on 03 867 6072 to find your nearest dealer.

Turn your Mac IIx into a Quadra

Owners of the superseded Macintosh IIx can cure their Quadra-envy by installing an accelerator board that will give make their computer 1.25 times faster than the stock item.

The fx/Overdrive accelerator board boosts the clock speed of a Mac IIx up to 55Mhz, enabling it to outperform a Quadra 900. Nominal operating speeds range from 40Mhz-50Mhz (you need to install special SIMMS to reach 55Mhz) and are set by user access to a control panel.

Retail price for the accelerator starts at \$3000 inc tax (\$4500 with 16 Mbyte SIMMS). It's available from distributor Advance Peripherals — call 02 983 9666 or 03 326 8234 for your nearest dealer.



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GADGETS & GIZMOS

The pocket hard drive

There are two kinds of travellers: those who take with them only the bare necessities, and those who take everything that opens and shuts. For the latter, these tiny drives have enough extra capacity to store all the data and applications anyone is likely to take with them.

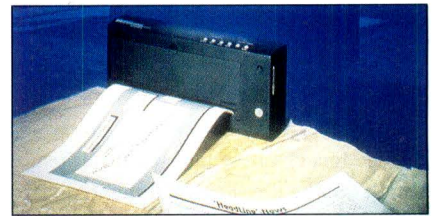
The 80MB Totable and 120MB Totable from PLI, small enough to fit in your pocket, outperform the Apple-supplied



Conner drives (with average seek times faster than 16ms and sustained transfer rates of up to 4 Mybytes a second).

What's more, the Totable can be installed as an internal drive in your PowerBook, and your original drive installed in the Totable chassis to be used as an external drive on any Macintosh. They can be powered directly from your Macintosh, an AC adaptor or from an optional rechargeable battery pack.

Distributed by Mitsui Computer (02 452 0452), the PLI 80MB Totable is \$1328 inc tax, the 120MB is \$1679 inc tax.



H-P portable printer

Half the size of a PowerBook, Hewlett-Packard's DeskJet Portable can easily fit in a briefcase, and weighs just 2kg. The printer is \$954 (ex tax) and comes with or without an automatic cut-sheet paper feeder for \$153.

When the printer and the feeder are assembled, the unit stands upright at a 45-degree angle and connects to any standard parallel port. The printer prints at 300 dots per inch (dpi) resolution at speeds up to 3 pages per minute. A4-size cut sheet paper, transparency film, and labels can be fed to the printer manually and the sheet feeder offers the option of automatic feed and holds 50 sheets of paper.

Accessories include a rechargeable battery (\$79) that allows printing of up to 100 pages per charge and takes six hours to recharge. (A standard video camcorder battery can also be used.) The recharger for the batteries is another \$153 and will charge two batteries at a time. However the recharger can be used to power the printer from an AC power source, and can be set to adapt to varying voltage standards around the world.

A carrying case for printer and PowerBook is an option at \$153. Local distribution is by InfoMagic (02 930 3900).



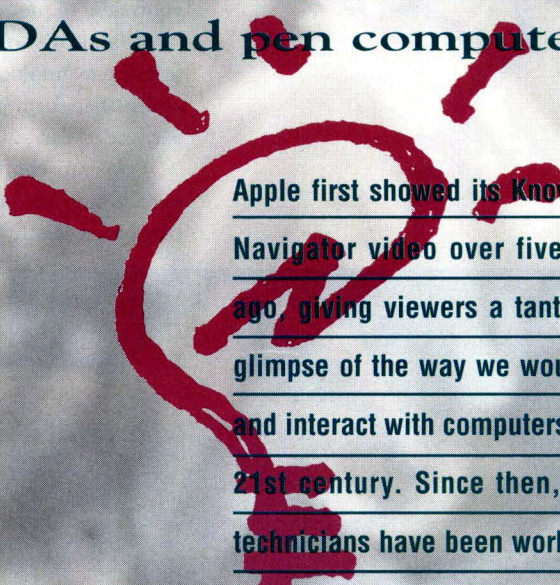
Find your way to database

Here's further proof of the old saying that you can't judge a book by its cover. This handy booklet has the details on a range of electronic information sources (including online databases, CD-ROMs, magnetic tape and computer disks). Included in the book are chapters covering a wide range of information topics and sources, from newspapers and magazines to law and legislation databases.

Priced at \$25, it was compiled by Janet Stewart and Sandra Oxley of the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT). It's available from the department of information services at RMIT (03 660 3057), and is part of the department's planned series of publications on business information and business information sources.

Pen computing gets personal

A close look at Apple's Newton technology, PDAs and pen computers.



Apple first showed its Knowledge Navigator video over five years ago, giving viewers a tantalising glimpse of the way we would use and interact with computers in the 21st century. Since then, Apple technicians have been working on the necessary technology for a personal computer that can recognise human speech and handwriting. Newton is the result.

By David Wynter

You are talking to a client on-site about her requirements, taking notes on a small electronic device with a special pen. The device has an 7.5 x 12.5cm side-lit LCD screen with etched glass that feels like paper under the pen. A small plug-in electronic card contains a wireless modem that sends an e-mail query to your office manager about delivery dates that you just dropped onto the 'Assist' icon.

The client suggests you meet for lunch, so you write onto the screen 'Lunch with Julie next Tues', drag and drop it over to the Assist icon which locates the 'Julie' in the database and places an appointment in your electronic diary for next Tuesday at noon (it knows

you normally eat lunch at noon).

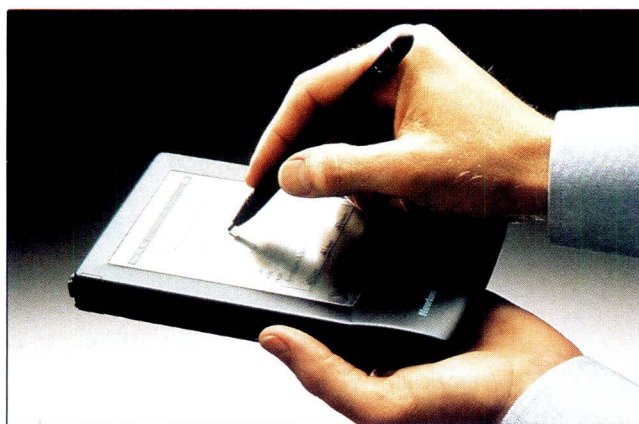
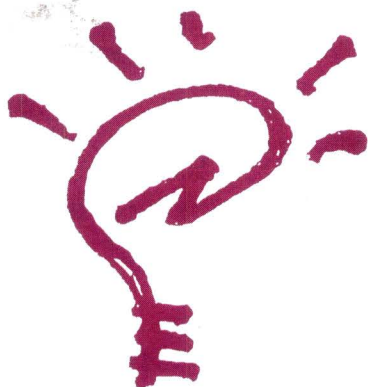
You are using the first model of a Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) produced by Apple, the first to use Newton technology. Before you leave the client's premises, an e-mail message arrives at your PDA — your efficient office manager letting you know the likely delivery date.

In the beginning was the word...

John Sculley, Apple's CEO, coined the phrase 'Personal Digital Assistant' for a new style of computer able to be used by anyone who can write and needs to keep a diary and communicate with colleagues and friends. PDAs are a mixture of a portable computer and consumer electronics, a Personal Information

Manager (PIM) and a telecommunications device. Newton technology is a new hardware, system software and application system software architecture. The system software comprises recognition, information, communication and something called Newton intelligence.

Michael Tchao, product line manager for Newton devices at Apple, describes PDAs like this: "*Personal* because it's serving peoples personal information needs; *digital* because of the wide range of new products and services brought about by the convergence of communications, publishing, consumer electronics and the computer industry; *assistant* because it



Apple has studied the way people deal with personal information and hopes to use its advanced software techniques to provide the most natural interface.

actively tries to assist the user, rather than being simply easy to use."

PDA's use low-cost, high-powered microprocessors with the latest software technology to produce the computing equivalent of the Sony Discman. Both Apple and GO Corp are driving the software technology to enable them to realise these truly personal computers by early next year.

PDA's represent a whole new market and existing Mac users should not be concerned that Apple is abandoning

them. In fact, the Newton communicates with the Mac and PCs (initially through an extended AppleTalk) and can understand and transfer their data.

Types of pen computers

Pen computer hardware falls into four categories: Tablet

computers which are A4-sized, about 3cm thick and weigh between 1.5 and 2.5 kg; Palmtops which are smaller, lighter and have less powerful processors; Convertibles or Pentops which resemble notebook computers with pen input on the screen; and PDA's. Until now, we have only seen a few examples of each type, with the PDA yet to appear.

Tablet computers have been disappointing in terms of price, weight, power consumption and poor handwriting recognition. All Tablet computers suffered from at least three of these faults and were not accepted by the marketplace. One of the early entrants into this market, Momenta, went bankrupt in August this year for these reasons.

Operating systems with GUIs currently available on this platform include Microsoft's Windows for Pen Computing and GO's PenPoint. The former does not translate well to pen input, as holding the equivalent to the cursor (the pen) in your hand does not relate well to a desktop GUI. The latter was designed from the ground up for a pen interface called the

Notebook User Interface, based on how you use pen and paper. PenPoint is a powerful, easy to use, object-orientated operating system using system resources efficiently — important on a portable device.

Pentops are cumbersome, awkward to use, and are likely to have only specific roles once pen computers are fully accepted. Why have a traditional notebook computer or Pentop when your Tablet computer can do everything a Pentop can, is easier to use, and can even be used (like a clipboard) while walking around? Palmtops running a version of MS-DOS are likely to disappear when the low-cost PDA's arrive early next year.

PDA's are designed for broad appeal, with a few targeted applications likely to be integrated into a user interface tailored to the proposed use of PDA's. Because handwriting recognition technology is advancing fast, the first PDA's should have good recognition of printed handwriting, with upgrades to longhand within a year. This area was perceived as being weak in Tablet computers, not only due to software, but also a lack of power in the CPU. The Intel 386SL CPU used in most Tablets struggles to cope with the GUI and handwriting recognition.

For this reason, PDA's will be powered by a new generation of small, powerful RISC processors with low power consumption. Currently there are only two 32 bit RISC chips in this category, the ARM610 and AT&T's Hobbit. Both of these will appear in the first PDA's to hit the stores. The ARM610 has twice the power of the 40MHz 68040 processor used in the now-discontinued Mac IIx. PDA's using Newton technology from Apple and Sharp will use the ARM610. A version of PenPoint called Rolling Rock running on PDA's from AT&T, EO and NEC will use the Hobbit.

Market expectations

Tablet computers and PDA's are likely to dominate the market. They have different focuses but overlap in functionality in some areas. PDA's are likely to be used by individuals for personal productivity improvement. Corporations that need to co-ordinate and

communicate with mobile professionals and blue collar workers, no matter where they are, will also use PDAs.

Tablets will accommodate different communications devices at once whereas PDAs are likely to be restricted to one, initially at least. Tablets are likely to be used where the larger format of the screen allows full-sized forms to be represented, and when large volumes of data need to be accessed such as manuals, corporate data, catalogues and large maps. Tablets can do everything PDAs can and more, but are bigger, heavier and more expensive.

PDAs are expected to take off rapidly, and with good reason. Because Apple is focusing on the Newton as a consumer device, its price must be low. The price history should be very similar to Sony's Discman, a portable CD player. Initially priced around \$1000, the Discman has fallen to around \$200 over the last five years. Market analysts expect to see the same pattern with PDAs. Apple is looking at mail-order catalogues, consumer electronics outlets and online outlets as new sales channels.

Sharp Electronics estimates that as many as 270 million PDAs could be sold by the year 2000. Initially, Apple's Newton should be under \$US1000 with the price falling to under \$US500 within two years. With the low cost of the RISC processors being used (\$US50 per ARM610 in quantity) this is entirely possible. Projections for Tablet computers are significantly lower with 100,000 to 300,000 units expected to ship next year.

Apple's approach

Apple PIE (Personal Interactive Electronics) is a group of 200 people, a subdivision of which is working on the technology to deliver the first Newton. The term Newton describes both the PDA and new technology that will be used on Tablets and on the desktop. This includes development of an object-orientated database optimised for small pieces of information that we all use everyday (replacing all those scraps of paper and Post-Its).

Apple has a lot of control over its version of the ARM RISC processor

How it works: Apple's PDA interface

The prototype PDA has what looks like a HyperCard stack in portrait mode, a virtual notepad that is infinitely scrollable. When you start writing and sketching on this notepad the Newton will create a document with a time and date stamp.

To keep it simple, only six pen-based gestures are recognised as commands. Drawing a line right across the screen starts a new document. Holding the pen down changes it to a highlighter pen which will select all lines of adjacent text as you drag it down the left margin. Context-sensitive help is built-in.

Due to its multi-tasking operating system, the Newton can have several recognisers working simultaneously, interpreting your input for a best-fit

translation. The recognisers include text, maths symbols and graphics, and will be extended to include musical notation, shorthand and specialist notations used by doctors and other professions.

The built-in system software applications are represented as seven icons along the bottom of the screen, along with a two-headed scroll arrow. The icons are 'Who?', 'What?', 'When?', 'Files', 'Format', 'Find' and 'Assist'.

Tapping the pen on the Who button brings up Rolodex-style cards, animated to represent a rotating file. You can write notes directly on these cards along with contact details. The sound of cards flipping over accompanies the turning of the cards. Tapping the phone icon dials the person whose details are on the card. The When button accesses the diary directly.

Tapping the File icon reveals a window that shows icons for additional applications which will be made available through third-party developers, initially developed on the Mac in an environment

similar to HyperCard.

Tapping the Format button allows you to put selected text (or text you've just entered) into any of several customisable formats including fax, e-mail or business letter. The Find button allows you to search for information in the object-orientated database using key words. All data regardless of whether it appears in the Diary, Address book or anywhere else is stored in this database.

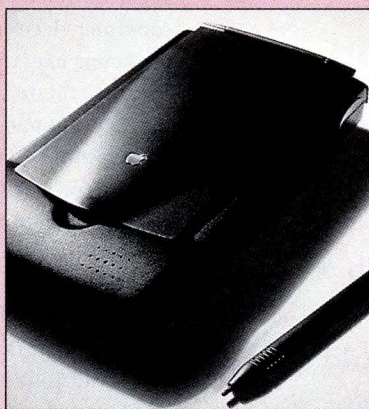
The most compelling part of the Newton technology is accessed through

the Assist icon. This represents the Intelligent Assistant (or agent), and lets the Newton determine the context of what has been written by matching it to known words and phrases. These known words are used to build up a command interpretation that automatically performs a combination of

operations in the system applications. Say you have written "fax bob" over some selected text and a sketch. On tapping the Assist button, the Newton determines the meaning of the word 'fax', looks up 'Bob' in the database and presents the resultant fax document with cover page for your approval. On approval, the Newton dials the fax number and sends the selected document.

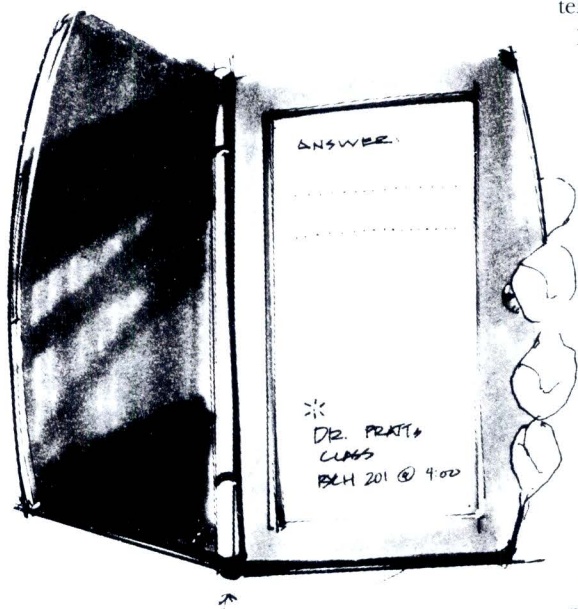
Any assumptions made by the Assistant can be corrected and it will learn from this. The ability to learn new rules and for the user to define rules will make the Assistant more convenient.

However, Apple fellow Alan Kay says that the limited intelligence of the intelligent agents and the sorry state of networks will be the factors limiting the success of this technology. Initially, the agents will only be good at one thing. He believes that many years' development are required on artificial intelligence before the intelligent agents are really useful. This software technology is the same that is required to make voice input systems usable.





Sharp estimates that as many as 270 million PDAs could be sold by the year 2000.



developed by Advanced RISC Machines for the Newton. Part of the silicon on the chip has an area designed to optimise memory management and garbage collection specially for the Newton's object-orientated operating system. There is even a team working on a new object-orientated programming language called DYLAN (DYnamic LANuage), optimised for devices with limited amounts of memory in which to run programs.

Apple is in partnership with Sharp, which will manufacture the first Newtons. Apple appears to be using its software expertise in combination with Sharp's consumer electronics manufacturing and marketing expertise to ensure the Newton's future. Apple intends to license Newton technology to other manufacturers. The ARM610 CPU is sourced from GEC Plessey Semiconductors and VLSI Technology.

The Newton's support of AppleTalk restricts its access to only a few forms of communication. Previous Apple fellows at General Magic (a company in which both Apple and Sony own shares) are developing the Telescript communications operating system. This

has the smarts to allow comprehensive telecommunications support. Apple has a non-exclusive right to use Telescript.

Some of this technology may appear in later Newtons with Sony (which manufactured the PowerBook 100) licensing Newton technology at a later date. Current prototypes of the Newton do not include any of the technology developed by General Magic, but the communications strategy has yet to be finalised.

Apple has studied the way people deal with personal information and hopes to use its advanced software techniques to provide the most natural interface.

It hopes to hide the advanced technology from the user by focusing on the small set of things a large number of people do with information.

Communications capabilities

Wide area wireless networks are least three years away in the US, and even longer away here. Current analogue cellular telephones will support up to 2400 baud data transfer with a good connection and error correction. In 1993 Telecom will introduce the European GSM standard for digital cellular telephones which will support up to 9600 baud (approximately 1000 characters per second transfer). Digital cellular modems that plug into the PCMCIA 2.0 compatible slot on the Newton will be available.

For local networking, Apple has extended AppleTalk to incorporate a feature called 'Roving'. This will allow local area networking between Newtons equipped with infra-red network cards and other Newtons or desktop computers similarly equipped. As you wander around with your Newton, the making and breaking of connections with different network nodes is handled transparently, similar to the way a cellular phone works now. There will also be support for hard-wired Roving AppleTalk network connections and a fixed connection with PCs similar to LapLink for file transfer.

Roving AppleTalk allows users to use the Inbox and Outbox of the Newton to good effect. These boxes are like an in-tray and out-tray on a desk; when mail arrives it is placed in the in-tray to be read at leisure. Similarly a document placed in the out-tray will be collected by the mail carrier at a later time.

With the Newton you may send a fax through a fax server on your network. When the Intelligent Assistant sends that fax to Bob, it may place it in the Outbox knowing that when you come into proximity of the wireless network it can send the fax to the fax server. This is called deferred input/output, first seen in PenPoint.

Just how much of the proposed communications capabilities will be available when Newton is released is not clear. Some vendors of wireless information services (similar to pagers with messages) in the US report that they have been unable to get the specifications for the communications side of the

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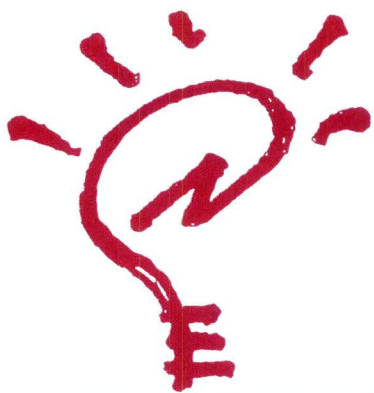
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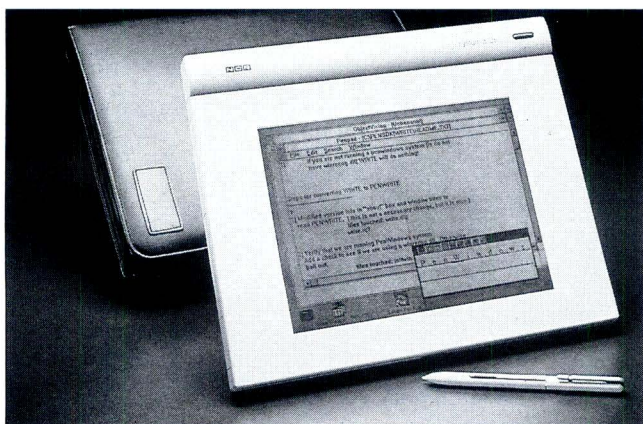
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Apple intends the Newton operating system to be scalable to Tablet-sized and larger devices.

Released in 1991, the NCR 3125 Tablet computer supports Microsoft's Windows for Pen Computing and GO's PenPoint operating systems, as well as MS-DOS.



Newton, and therefore are not developing products for it. The modular nature of the Newton software and the provision of the industry standard PCMCIA slot should allow this development at a later date.

Apple's competition

At the moment only Apple and Sharp with the Newton and GO, AT&T, NEC and EO with PenPoint are large enough to get this market moving. GO has the advantage of having a good following amongst Japanese manufacturers for its forthcoming Kanji version of PenPoint to run on Tablets. But GO has realised that the interface used on full-sized tablets needs to be simplified and scaled down for PDAs. Initially the Rolling Rock version will satisfy that need, with the more memory-efficient Amstal version following in mid 1993.

Apple intends for the Newton operating system, NewtOS, to be scalable to Tablet-sized and larger devices, but is concentrating on PDAs initially. NewtOS has the advantage of built-in intelligent agents which PenPoint does not provide. These can be provided by third-party developers for PenPoint in their products. This brings us to what probably will be the crucial difference between the platforms.

The big difference

The Newton provides an integrated environment that allows limited opportunities for independent software developers. This has the advantage of a consistent and easy-to-use device, but with limits on the software innovation available

from outside Apple. PenPoint allows consistent ease of use but without the same level of integration. There will be many different applications of the diary, address book and other features on PenPoint from different software companies. It

is too difficult to predict whether Apple's radical new approach will be successful.

Who should buy one?

The decision on whether you should buy a PDA depends on your ability to measure the benefit you derive from it.

The computer industry has never been very good at putting values on the benefits and disadvantages of owning computer equipment. This may be why Apple is aiming for the consumer market (the sort of person who buys a Discman) with its PDA. But if Apple and partners expect to reach their high sales projections, some careful identification of the advantages of owning a PDA will need to be communicated to the public.

The art of doing a cost benefit analysis for information systems is difficult enough, but when the system in question provides many intangible benefits it is even harder. PDAs will make you a better time manager by reminding you of appointments in your diary. It will make you more efficient by only having to remember to send or print information at the time you produce it (using deferred input/output). It provides you with related and relevant information wherever you are and the ability to communicate with the office or friends (dependent on the communications capabilities of your PDA).

All of these things are difficult to put a value on, although decision analysis techniques can help, and corporations are likely to use these. There is no doubt that certain lines of business will benefit from this technology. But this does not help the individual buyer, and I believe Apple is hopeful in thinking that if you are in the group that buys a Discman you might buy a PDA. In recessionary times the value of the device will have to be proved to potential buyers. **MM**

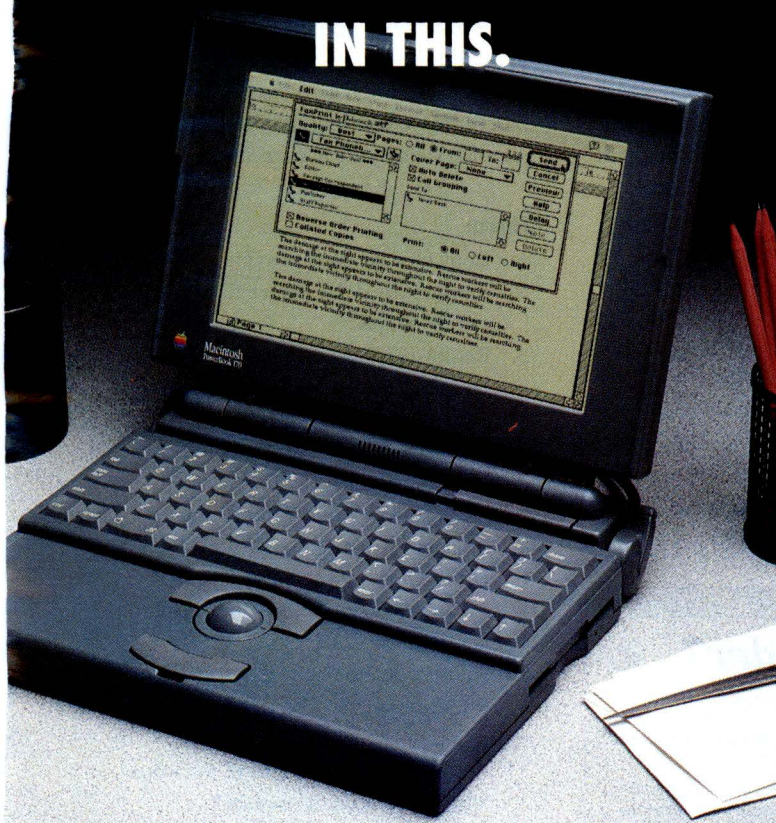
David Wynter is the Information Technology Director of Melbourne company ScribaSoft, which specialises in all things pen.

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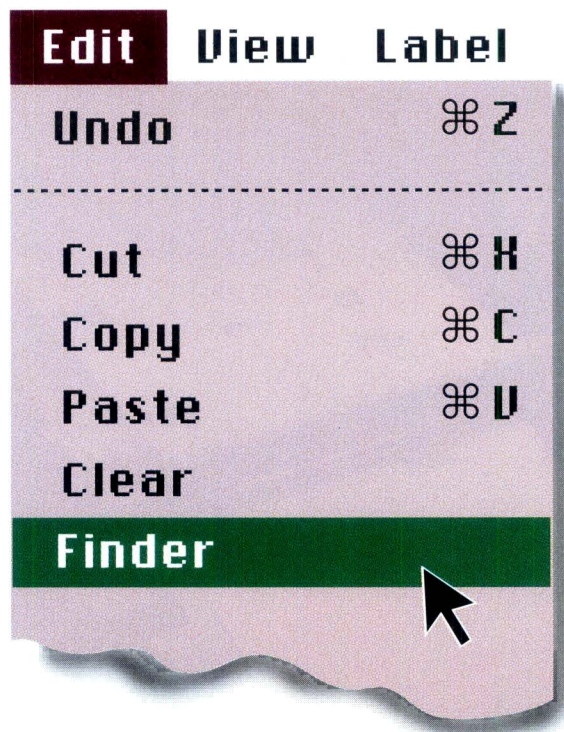
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Customising your Mac

Part 5: Finder

In the final instalment of this series, we look at the 20 most-needed features missing from

Apple's operating system, and show you the tools needed to implement them.

By Warren Bond

If I had to choose a single utility and live without all others, it would be the locally-produced SpeedyFinder 7. It combines many Finder customisation options, but its main purpose is to speed up your Mac. Files will copy up to 40 per cent faster, windows will open faster, and basic actions such as renaming files become faster. No messy ResEdit work here — just simple checkboxes in a Control Panel that toggle certain Finder defaults on or off.

If you can't get hold of SpeedyFinder 7, Adam Stein's System 7 Pak is a slightly less capable program, but still does most of the same things, albeit as an application. System 7 Pak combines the features of three of Stein's earlier programs — Rename Delay Editor, App-Doc Linker

and Finder 7 Menus — and adds a lot more.

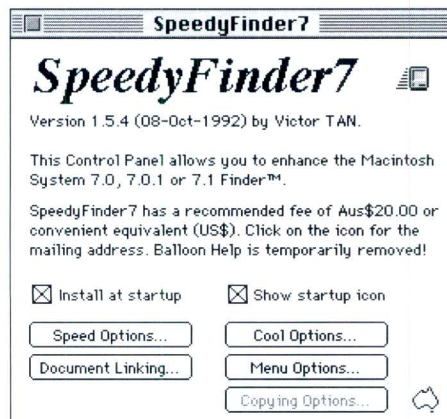
Of the things Apple's Finder does less than perfectly, here's a list of the top 20 things you might like to fix. It's followed by a list of utilities that will do the job. Asterisked items are System 7-specific.

Finder

1. Copy files as fast as possible.*
2. Remove the delay before file names can be edited.*
3. Remove window zooming.
4. Smarter document linking for 'missing' applications.
5. An Extension (INIT)/Control Panel (Cdev) manager.
6. A thicker cursor for PowerBooks.*
7. The ability to quit the Finder.
8. Better DOS floppy recognition.
9. All buttons selectable by their first letter.
10. Smarter default icons that show whether inserted floppies are locked or faulty.
11. Removal or replacement of the word 'alias' from alias file names.*
12. Beep after files have finished copying.

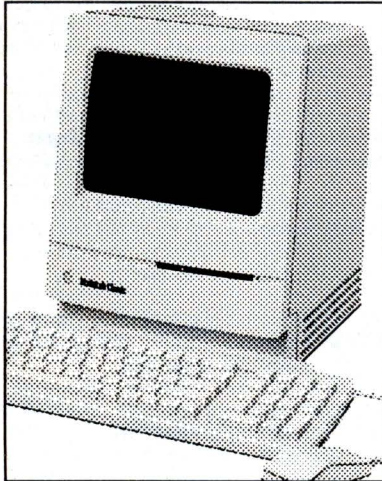
Trash

13. Empty the trash more intelligently.
14. The ability to erase rather than trash files.



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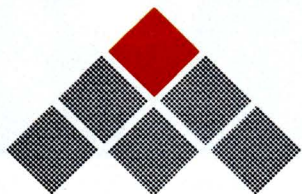
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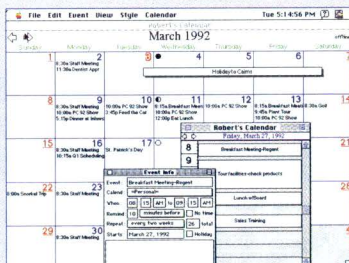
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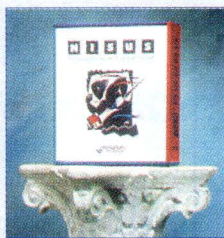
IDENTITIES

- ◆ INIT (Startup documents) conflicts
- ◆ Incompatibilities between system software and hardware, applications and hardware, system software and applications
- ◆ Improperly installed files
- ◆ Duplicate copies of files
- ◆ Memory shortages
- ◆ Damaged Files

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 NowMenu	 Hand-off II \$149.00	Both give you application substitution, workset launching, pop-up menus, and automatic hiding of inactive windows. But only NowMenus lets you define hot keys for any menu item on-the-fly, including font menus.
 Super Boomerang	 ShortCut \$120	Both provide direct access to frequently used files and folders in all Open and Save dialogs, but Super Boomerang also does it directly from the Apple menu.
 Startup Manager	 INIT Picker \$109	Both control which extensions load, but only Startup Manager adjusts the System heap, groups extensions that require each other, and prevents incompatible extensions from loading.
 WYSIWYG Menus	 Type Reunion \$115	Both create submenus of all fonts within a family, but only WYSIWYG Menus displays font names in their own style and lets you rename & reorder fonts.
 NowSave	 Auto Save II \$62	Both protect you from System crashes by automatically saving your work, but only NowSave lets you specify by how many minutes, keystrokes, or mouse clicks.
 Now Profile	 MacSleuth \$260	Both analyze your system and its configuration, but only Profiler lists all programs installed, finds duplicate files, and has a hook to work with Startup Manager .
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Menus

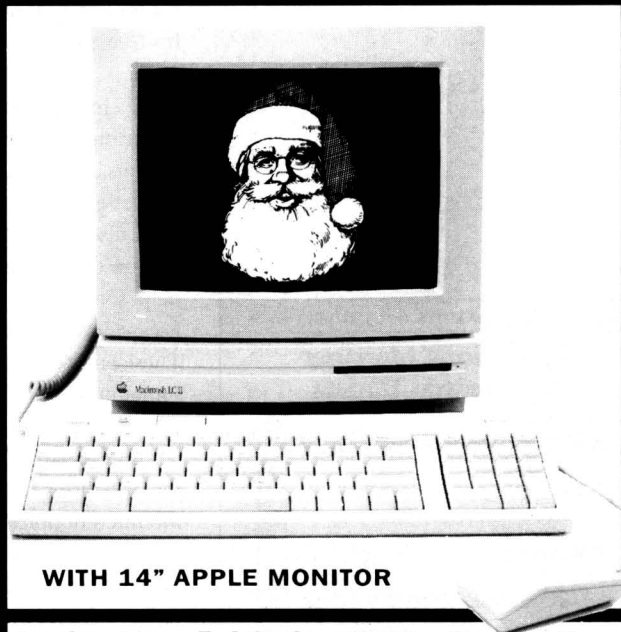
15. Hierarchical menus.
16. The ability to add command keys to Finder menu items.
17. Ability to change Finder menu names.
18. A way to switch between graphic and list views other than by the View menu.
19. Switch between applications without using the default application menu.
20. Remove or quickly toggle balloon help menu.*

Of these 20 'features', SpeedyFinder 7 will implement 11 of them (and give you a dozen other less-vital fixes), while the System 7 Pak will attend to seven of them and give you a few extras also. Get either, but preferably get SpeedyFinder 7, written by Victor Tan in Sydney. The product is bound to go commercial any time now, and Tan says he is working on version 2.0, which will include Finder copying *in the background*. Get in on the ground floor of this \$20 shareware gem, as you'll probably be eligible for discounts on future commercial versions.

In the following list a bullet ('•') denotes the fact that SpeedyFinder 7 will do the job, while a cross-hatch mark ('#') indicates that System 7 Pak will handle it.

1. •# There is a ResEdit hack available that boosts the System 7 Finder's copy routines. It is called Finder 7 Improvement, and includes easy-to-follow documentation, but it's easier to go with the two 'do-it-all's.'
2. •# Rename Delay Editor will do the job of reducing or eradicating the delay between file name selection and the text edit box appearance under System 7 (default is about three seconds).
3. •# Long time Mac users probably don't notice the zooming effect of a window opening anymore. However, this default does slow the system down. To remove it, use ZoomSwitch.
4. •# The intelligence of the Mac's operating system in the area of document linking extends only as far as text files, where if the original application is missing and the file is saved in text format, you are given a prompt enabling you to open the file in TeachText. However, TeachText does not handle files bigger than 32 Kbytes. Look instead to App-Doc linker.
5. Everyone should have an Extension/Control Panel manager, and one of the best is released by Apple itself, called Extensions Manager. The current version 1.8 lets you save sets, and best of all, it's free. Let's hope Apple eventually finds it worthy enough to include on its System disks. The rest of us do.
6. Why having a thicker I-beam cursor on PowerBook systems isn't an Apple option, I'll never know. Use FindCursor or CursorBeacon, but there are others. They will either allow you to hold a designated key that will highlight the cursor, or permanently make it 'thicker'.
7. •# Since the Finder is in effect just another application, it's really not needed while you are in another application. So rather than taking up valuable RAM, many utilities will cause the Finder to quit while in another program, to free up memory for a second application. Some of these are Anti-Finder, Kill Finder, and of course, those two gems again.

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8. • If you want to recognise a DOS disk rather than receiving a 'This disk is unreadable. Do you want to initialise?' dialogue, then why not opt for WatchDos, which alters the dialogue to say 'Warning: This is an MS-Dos disk. Initialising this disk will destroy any valid information it may contain.' Better still, go for DOSInit. It's free, and it also mounts those DOS disks.

9. Incorporated into quite a few applications is the ability to select different buttons in a dialogue box by typing the first letter of your chosen button, (usually while also pressing a modifier key). But why isn't it standard? Many utilities can help, some of which are ButtonKey, Escapade, Key Tools and Okey Dokey. These enable this type of functionality, sometimes by automatically selecting the default button after x seconds.

10. • Sparedisk is a small extension that will display a band-aid disk icon for mounted floppies which have some bad sectors which cannot be written to. With System 6, if a floppy has some bad sectors on it, the Finder won't initialise the disk. Why should only a few bad sectors mean the disk needs to be thrown away? BAD Init lets you initialise those disks, and use just the good sectors as normal. Also helps prevent those files failing to copy properly to floppies.

11. • # Going the ResEdit path, STR# 20500 is where the alias file name suffix is kept ('alias'). (Space) alias can be deleted here or changed to something else. Stick to the other two for sake of ease. Why Apple felt the need to spell out an obvious difference is unclear, as all aliases are

already italicised!

12. In Part 4 I mentioned

CopyBeep, which audibly signals to you that a large file has finished copying. The size of file(s) that generate signals, or the amount of time taken to perform the copy is configurable. A must-have.

13. • A most annoying part of the Mac is the way it handles files to be deleted. When compared with five foreign operating systems (including Windows 3.0), the Mac was the only one that couldn't delete files in one step. First you have to put them in the trash, then you have to empty it.

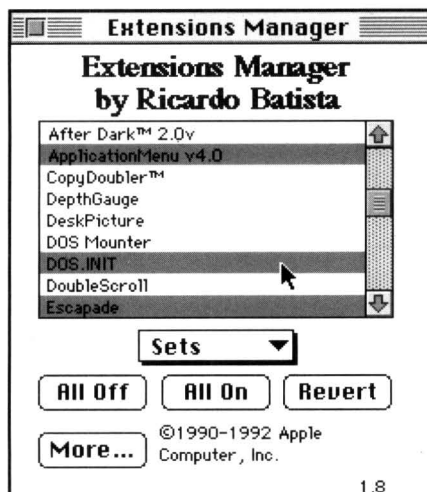
Apart from SpeedyFinder7, a tiny utility called Basura will fix this. Once an icon is selected, choosing delete while holding down the Command key will send it to the trash. If you hold down both Command and Option keys while choosing delete, it will trash then delete the file (empty the trash). In the same vein are DustBin and TrashChute, which will cause System 7 to automatically trash items, Trash Selector that gives you options on which items in the trash are deleted, and TrashMan that allows all trashed files to be deleted after a user-specified time. New utilities of this type become available almost every month; some deleting locked files, some deleting selected icons in the Finder via command keys, and so on.

14. Erasing files rather than simply emptying the trash is easily performed by many utilities including Obliterate, FlameFile, and about a dozen others. This is only for the security-conscious. There are plenty of shareware and commercial packages out there that do this, and programs that can recover trashed files if you don't, so I'm not suggesting Apple should change anything here. Just be aware that Apple's way is not always the best way.

15. Hierarchical menus: If you're not already using them, get hold of Magic Apple, Apple Slicer, BeHierarchic or MenuChoice, with the latter being by far the best of these shareware choices.

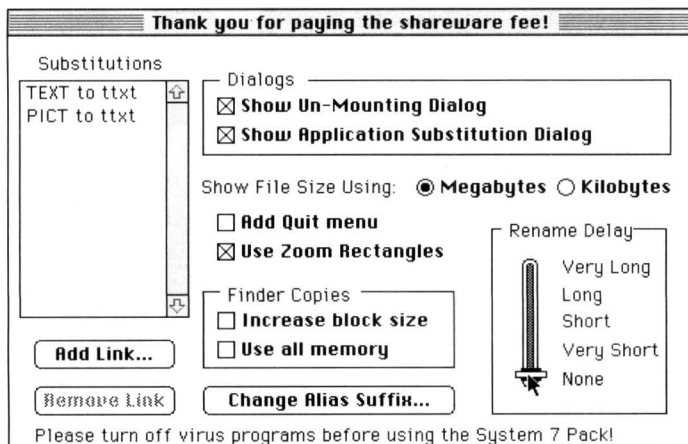
16, 17. • # Adding command keys to the Finder and renaming menu items is a job for ResEdit. Refer to part three of this series (*MacNews October*) for an explanation on how to use ResEdit to easily do this in System 6 or 7.

18. A great new utility called FinderView will let you add command keys to System 7's View menu items to let you quickly toggle between different window views. Under System 6, all you need is ResEdit (*see part three of this series, as*



Above: Apple recognised the jumble that had become of the System 6 folder. With System 7, separate folders for INITs (Extensions) and Cdevs (Control Panels) were devised. Here is a utility which lets you decide which items load during startup.

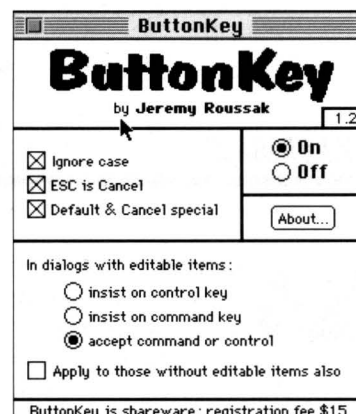
Below: The System 7 Pak application. Not a rivetting interface, but functional all the same.





Left: No need to bin floppies when only a tiny portion is actually bad. BAD will rescue the good bits.

Right: A utility which makes choosing dialogue items easier is a must.



above). Under System 7, some menus such as the 'View' menu are constructed at run time, and there's no easy way to modify them. FinderView is a control panel that lets you specify the command keys easily.

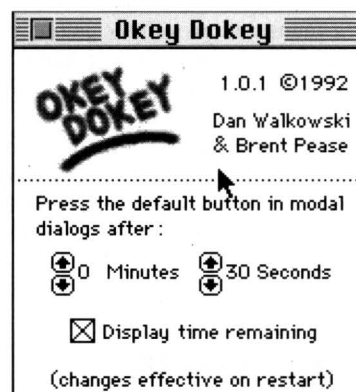
19. Two utilities, Switch and PwrSwitcher, rotate through open applications using the power key on an extended keyboard or escape key on Portables. Both need System 7, and PwrSwitcher does a few other things as well.

For those without extended keyboards, try ApplicationMenu, which among other things allows you to set modifier keys that, when pressed with the mouse button, create a popup menu under the cursor listing open applications to switch between.

20. • Helium is a great piece of shareware that accesses balloon help only while modifier keys are pressed. NoBalloonMenu is a utility that will remove it. SpeedyFinder 7 does both.

There are, of course, many more ways to further customise your Mac. But if you don't want to fiddle, SpeedyFinder 7 will give your system a massive shot in the arm. If you're more adventurous, get into ResEdit, and head for all the STR# resources. Here you can change the name of the trash, About this Macintosh and Finder text, the default 'untitled folder', and more besides. Enjoy! **IMV**

Right: Annoyed by dialogue boxes asking you to OK a basic Mac action? Although sometimes necessary, often they're not, so Okey Dokey can save wear and tear on your return key.



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The well-measured word



By Sandi Givens



Excel 4.0

Excel 4.0 enables you to access many editing and formatting commands from menus that pop-up near the cells you want to alter. Simply select the cells in the normal manner, then hold down the Command and Option keys while pressing the mouse button with the pointer on top of the cells. Many of the standard editing and formatting options are there, ready to go.

This same technique can be used with the mouse pointer over a row or column heading. The menu that pops up will then include the row height or column width command.



Canvas 2.0

Although not the latest version available, here's another tip for users of Canvas 2.0.

The Text tool is a multiplex icon, which means by holding down a key on the keyboard as you press the mouse button with the pointer on the 'T' tool, various menus will open, allowing you to alter the default settings for the tool.

Holding down the Command key while pressing the mouse button on the tool will display the usual Font menu, whereas the Option key will display the Style and Alignment options. Using the Shift key in a similar fashion displays the list of available text sizes.

Another option? Double-click the Text tool to open the Type Manager dialogue box. (A simple Command+T will do the trick as well.)



Word 5.0

The default unit of measurement used with Word 5 is set in the Tools, Preferences dialogue box with the General category selected. This may be inches, centimetres, points or picas.

In many dialogue boxes where a

measurement needs to be entered, the default unit is used. An exception to this is the Paragraph dialogue box in setting the Line, Before and After spacing for a paragraph of text which default to measurement in point sizes. However, you may enter 'in' (inches), 'cm' (centimetres) or 'li' (lines) after your numeric measurement to override this if you prefer.

(By the way, in setting the line spacing of a paragraph, 'Auto' is the default, adjusting line heights to accommodate the largest characters in the lines. Use 'At Least' to set a minimum height which Word may increase if necessary and 'Exactly' to set a measurement that Word will not adjust under any circumstances).



FileMaker Pro

Here's a trick that will help format dates in FileMaker Pro. You use the Format menu's 'Date Format...' command to specify the way dates are to appear on the screen and when printed.

To use this command, you must be in Layout mode. To format an existing field, select it before using the command. (To select multiple fields, you can use the standard Mac technique of Shift-clicking.)

Options you set in the dialogue box will apply to fields you later create if either no field is selected, or you have selected only a newly created field.



Aldus Freehand 3.1

Aldus Freehand 3.1 provides you with many ways of altering the view of your illustration. Perhaps the most obvious means initially is to select an element and then choose a view from the Magnification submenu of the View menu. The selected element will then be centred within the new view.

It may prove more efficient to utilise the Magnification Tool in the Toolbox

(the magnifying glass with a plus sign inside it). With this tool selected, position your mouse pointer over the desired area of your work and click until you reach the enlarged view desired. (Tip: Holding down the Option key with this procedure will activate the Reducing Tool — the plus will change to a minus symbol — and shrink your work with each successive click.)


Finally, you may create a custom view by the following steps. With the magnification tool selected, move your mouse pointer on top of your illustration. Click and drag to draw a selection box around the area you wish to magnify. When you release the mouse button, the area inside the box will be enlarged to the size of the illustration window.

Hold down the Option key with this last procedure and you will be specifying a reduced custom view. When the mouse button is released, all elements currently visible in the window will be reduced to fit within the selection box you have drawn.



Word 5.0

If you use Word 5's Style feature, this tip may prove invaluable. When you press 'Return', you start a new paragraph in the same style as the preceding one. That's unless a different style has been specified as the Next Style to follow this one in the Style dialogue box. In other words, with this option set, when you press 'Return', Word knows to immediately change the next paragraph to another style of formatting.

However, there are often instances where you simply want to stay in the same style. Easy — simply press the Command and Return keys together to override the Next Style option. 

Sandi Givens is co-director of the Melbourne training and consulting company, Knowledge-Able.

Full 24 bit colour for your Macintosh monitor - *Just \$895*

A new range of monitor cards from Lapis and IC Technologies designed for Macintosh LC/LCII, IIsi, IIfx, IIvx and the entire Macintosh II series.



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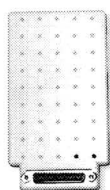
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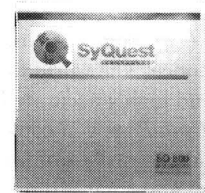
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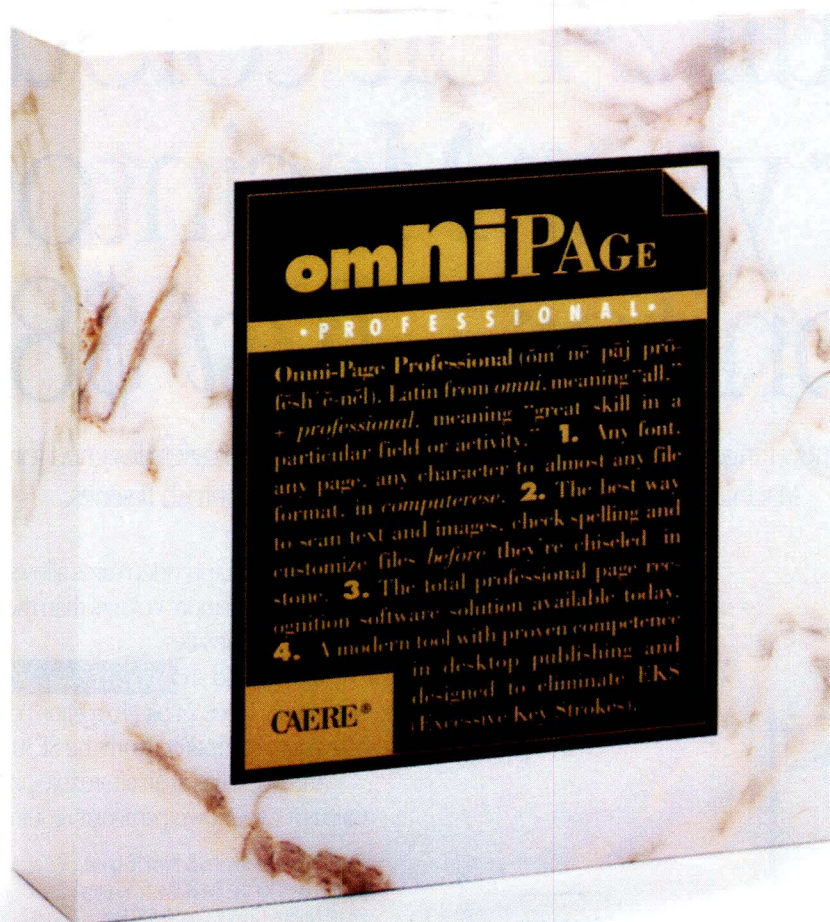


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That's why 8 of 10 people choose *OmniPage*.

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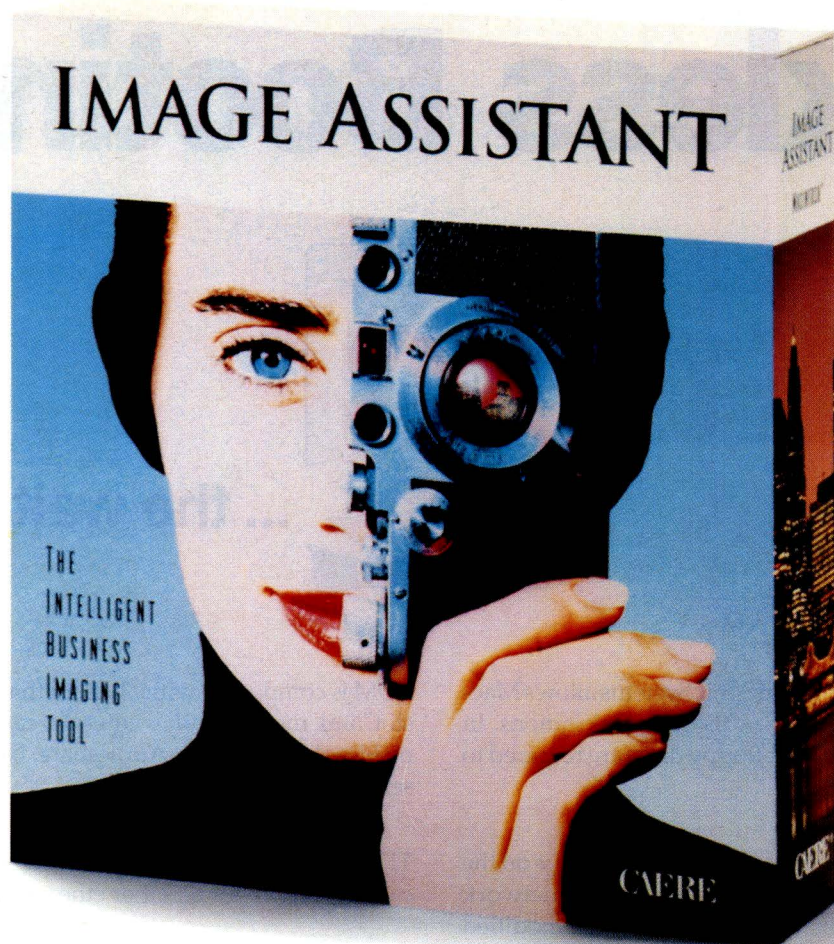
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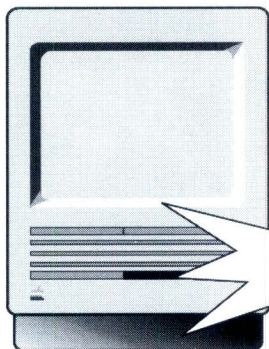


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Macintosh

Diskless Booting



... the wait is over!

The Diskless Mac (TDM) from Sonic Systems allows Macs on an ethernet network to act as diskless workstations. In other words, no hard disks or floppy disks are required to operate the Mac.

TDM will allow Macs to boot from a system image on the file server which can be controlled by the network administrator. This system image can easily be modified as needed, to provide, for example, a controlled set of applications, INIT's, fonts and DA's to all users.

Simply plug the TDM ROM chip onto the ethernet card, load the TDM software onto the file server, and restart the client Macs It's that easy! TDM uses industry standard boot protocols (TCP/IP) and is very fast. For example, a cluster of 30 Mac II's can be booted from a Mac II fx server running Appleshare in under 2 minutes!

TDM greatly simplifies the management of Macs as well as significantly decreasing maintenance and administrative costs. TDM is ideal for use in Mac learning clusters laboratories and public access environments.

TDM is compatible with all Macs that have an expansion slot and most popular ethernet cards. TDM support diskless booting from Appleshare, Novell and UNIX file servers.

TDM costs \$145 when purchased with Sonic ethernet cards and \$215 for all other ethernet cards.



Simplicity

Uniform operating system is directly manageable by the system administrator from the central fileserver.



Reliability

Lowest the maintenance required on the workstations.



Security

Controls the unauthorized duplication of software and spreading of viruses.

Sonic ethernet cards are Apple "Register Level Compatible", meaning there is no need for any special driver software - you can use Apple's EtherTalk driver. This level of compatibility ensures reliable performance.

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Explore and discover

TIME OUT

By Shane Doak

Welcome to our new column on Macintosh entertainment. Beginning this month, we'll bring you up to date on the happenings of the Macintosh gaming community; what's new and upcoming; reviews on the choice pickings; tricks, tips and hints; and all the information relevant to your recreational pursuits on the Macintosh.

This month, we review *The Secret of Monkey Island* and *Warlords*. Next issue, along with the usual reviews will be a summary of the games about to be released for the Mac, required reading for keen gamers. The Mac gaming industry is set to explode with a plethora of new titles, and you'll read about it first right here.

Monkey Island

Monkey Island is another graphic adventure from the LucasFilm stable in the tradition of *Indiana Jones*. Full colour, animated characters and an original soundtrack make the setting for this rollicking, tongue-in-cheek pirate crusade.

You play the part of Guybrush Threepwood, a young aspiring pirate. On the way to achieving becoming a pirate, you learn to fight with swords and insults, bargain with a crazy used boat salesman, captain a ship with a mutinous crew, rid *Monkey Island* of the ghost pirate LeChuck, solve the secret of the island and, of course, get the girl by the end of the game.

All of the action and movement occurs via an excellent mouse interface, rather than typing in esoteric synonyms until you stumble upon the computer's word for a certain object. The interface is well thought out and doesn't detract at all from your involvement in directing Guybrush's actions onscreen.

The game is a delight to play and draws you in with its laid-back humour and stunning graphics. Unlike most adventure

games, there are no 'dead ends' if you happen to do something wrong. You solve the game's mysteries by exploring and discovering, not by dying a thousand deaths. In all, a game to delight aspiring pirates of all ages. *Monkey Island*, distributed by Try and Byte (02 906 5227), is \$79.95 RRP and requires a colour Mac (LC or II series).

Warlords

Warlords is a delight for budding conquerors, playing in either black and white or 256 colours. The Kingdom of Illuria is up for grabs to one of the eight *Warlords* in the land, of which you are one. Starting from

your home castle, you must ruthlessly expand your territory and eliminate all other players. You can take on other humans, or

sharpen your battlecraft against computer-generated foes.



If you're out to conquer the Kingdom of Illuria you're first advised that "to be a Warlord requires ye to use your head, planning troop movements, developing strategic positions and even balancing your income against the cost of those you recruit."

Local developer the Strategic Studies Group, well-known for its battle simulation games, has produced a masterpiece of domination, strategy and cunning for the fans of this genre. Distributed by the Strategic Studies Group (02 819 7199) and Directsoft Australia (02 489 7853), *Warlords* is \$79.95 RRP. It runs on a Mac Plus or later Macintosh, and requires System 6.0.2 or greater or System 7. **MM**

Former architect Shane Doak edited the now-defunct Labyrinth magazine, and has a long-held interest in computer games.



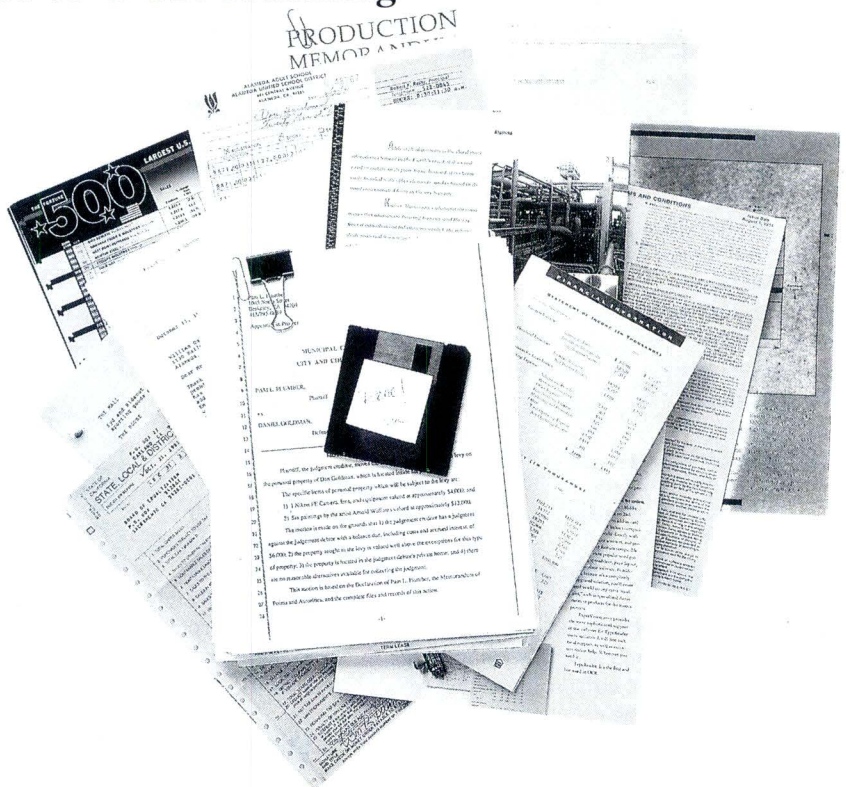
Text

without typing

A buyer's guide to OCR scanning

Scanners have fallen in price steadily over the last few years, and the rapidly expanding OCR market now offers ample justification to purchase a mono scanner for text recognition alone.

By Monica McCormack



Thanks to scanners and Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software you can effectively bridge the gap between the Mac and the printed page.

The good oil on scanning text is that, at its most efficient, a page is simply run through the scanner, read, converted and stored on hard disk. Once scanned, text can be edited, reformatted, spell-checked, saved, pasted into an existing database or HyperCard stack or placed into another document. This way, time-consuming manual data entry is avoided and proofing kept to a minimum. Similarly graphics, such as logos, can be imported, transferred and used as many times as necessary in a range of documents.

Simple. Or is it?

The bad oil on scanning is that the manipulation of text isn't always the smooth process manufacturers would have us believe, even in the relatively uncomplicated world of monochrome

scanning. The difficulties lie not with the hardware (that is, the scanner) but with the OCR software used to interpret the text. Some OCR programs read certain kinds of text better than others, and to achieve accurate, fast results you need to match the program with the application.

Who needs a scanner?

Anyone collating and disseminating bulk information on computer will find a scanner useful at least some of the time.

An office accustomed to distributing multiple photocopies of news items or weekly reports can quickly convert them into electronic clippings via a scanner, and then store them on a network file server where they are available to everybody. The information is more accessible, less likely to get lost under a pile of paperwork, and cuts down on filing space. There are also cost savings on photocopying and...well, it's an environmentally friendly thing to do.

Gathering numeric data for a company

report or prospectus normally requires extensive re-typing — a scanner, however, saves time and scanned data can, in addition, be pasted straight into a spreadsheet program to generate graphs. Résumés, invoices, vital correspondence and copy for reproduction can all be scanned and stored for immediate or future reference without taking up valuable filing cabinet or desk space.

Above all, where original material is in hard copy format, a scanner can make short work of the conversion-to-disk process. Printing bureaux and publishing companies which regularly receive client copy or freelance contributions in hard copy format are most likely to find a scanner indispensable.

Memory and hardware

OCR software thrives on loads of memory and a powerful system. Some OCR programs, such as ReadRight for Macintosh, will run on a Mac Plus or an

text without typing

SE, but popular packages OmniPage and AccuText demand fast, powerful processors — a Mac II series and preferably above, with a minimum of 5–8 Mbytes of RAM. For filing mega amounts of scanned articles you'll also need a hard disk that can cope with the load.

Check that the scanner you purchase comes complete with a Mac interface kit — a SCSI interface board might be included in the quoted price, but don't take it for granted. The base Panasonic units, for example, range in price between \$1500 and \$2600; however, a scanner interface for Macs is an additional \$800.

Depending on your volume of type to be recognised, consider purchasing an automatic document feeder. As with photocopiers, a document feeder can be attached to the scanner and saves time when scanning multiple pages. Document feeders are extra cost options, hold between 25 and 50 pages and cost around \$1000 at retail price for a 30-page feeder.

Types of scanners

Scanner hardware was covered in detail in the December/January 1991 issue of *MacNews* (see *The Business of Scanning*), but here's a re-cap for those who came in late.

Sheet fed, or roll feed, scanners include units such as the Microtek II which operate along the same lines as a

standard fax machine. The page is inserted through a slot at the front of the unit and is moved over a stationary scanning head using a set of rubber

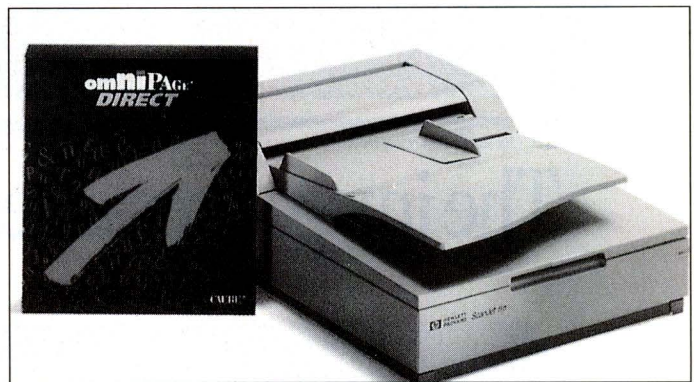
rollers. Sheet fed scanners have two advantages over their flatbed counterparts: first, they're cheaper because the cost of producing a

stationary head is less than it is to make a moving one; second, they usually come with built-in document feeders which offers further savings. On the downside, sheet fed scanners are generally considered less accurate since it is relatively easy for the scanned page to skew, as it is passed over the rollers, resulting in a distorted image.

Handheld scanners include Caere's Typist, Lightspeed's Lightscan and Thunderware's LightningScan page scanners. These handheld devices are small boxes that you roll manually over an original page of text. Their appeal lies not only in their portability, but their relatively

low purchase price. Costing just several hundred dollars they have, nevertheless, several limitations.

For starters you need to have a very steady hand and to move the scanner at a slow and even pace — several centimetres per second — to get good results. Furthermore, you may not be able to scan an entire document in one go; to scan text or images wider than the scanner you must do multiple sweeps and then 'stitch' the strips together. At best this is a hit and miss process. The Lightscan gets around some of these problems by offering a 10-



OmniPage Direct, a simplified version of OmniPage Professional, works with Hewlett-Packard's AccuPage page recognition technology to automatically set the brightness level for scanning on every region of the page.

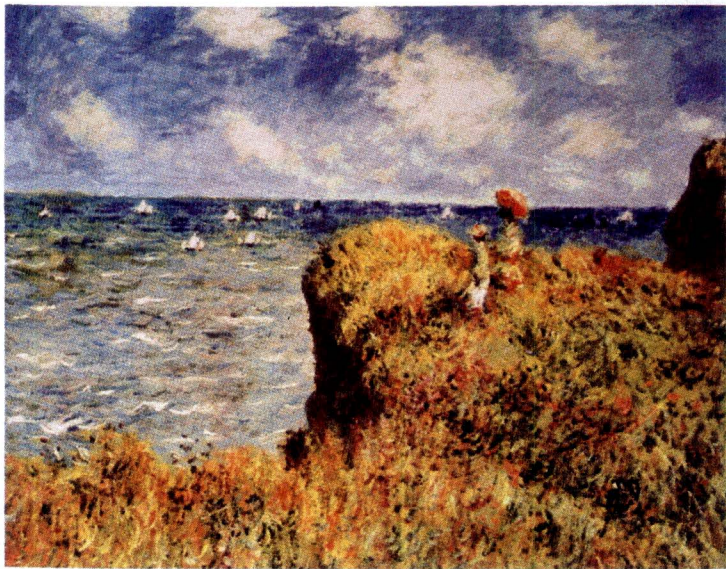
page document feeder to which the handy scanner is attached — useful if you get the jitters — and, in addition, scans in 215mm sweeps; wide enough to cover an A4 page in one pass.

OCR software for handheld scanners has been something of a problem in the past; however, Typist offers the proprietary OCR software included in OmniPage built-in, and lets you scan text directly into the word-processing, or other, program you're using. Typist also offers Graphic Editor software for grey-scale image work. When you get all this for around \$1000, it's not surprising Typist holds great appeal for the budget-conscious.

Although hand scanners are quite small, they do require external SCSI interfaces and power adaptors which detract somewhat from their portability, and make them impractical for use with PowerBooks.

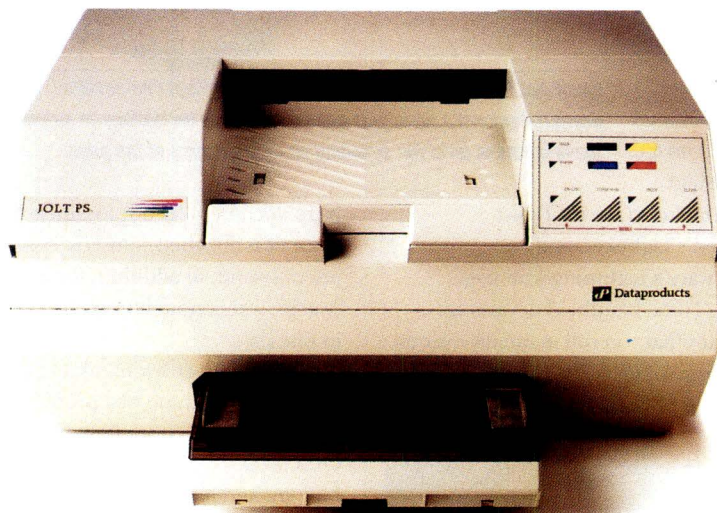
The Apple OneScanner scans images at up to eight-bits or 256 levels of grey.





Claude Monet. *Cliff Walk at Pourville, 1882.*

The image is priceless.



Fortunately, the printer isn't.

The clear superiority of solid ink technology is becoming legend.

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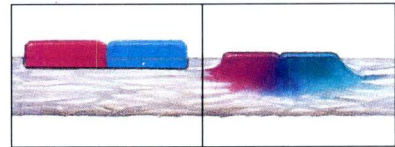
Perhaps more surprising is that

the image above is even better than this magazine uses a liquid ink which bleeds when it hits the paper. Solid ink holds its shape for noticeably better resolution.

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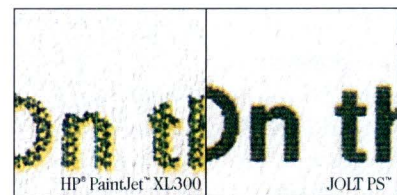


Liquid ink bleeds, often causing unintended and inaccurate color. Solid ink does not.

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Group Hitachi Koki

text without typing

Flatbed scanners such as Hewlett Packard's ScanJet IIp and the Apple OneScanner are similar in appearance to a small photocopier — you lift the platen lid, place the original page or open book face down against the glass platen underneath, and scan. Flatbeds are generally thought to be the most accurate type of scanner, and they boast several advantages over other scanning types. Provided the page is straight to start with, there's no danger of it skewing while being scanned. Another advantage is that flatbeds let you zoom in on sections of the paper, via the software and your mouse, so the scanner reads one part only while ignoring the rest of the page. Not only

does this allow for some flexibility in the scanning process, it also alleviates the memory usage problem often associated with graphics scanning.

Obituary

For quite some time there was just one scanner on the market, the Chinon DS-3000, which had its scanning head located on a raised platform. This model was geared towards the scanning of 3D objects up to 35mm in height, as well as the scanning of single A4 pages. However, the scanner, along with its Victorian distributor JIT Australia, has vanished from the market altogether.

The MacScan, distributed by Peak Australia, has also had its day.

Manufacturer New Image Technology has gone out of business but Peak assures users of the product it intends supporting them for the time being.

Resolution and grey scales

A scanner is essentially a sensor (a CCD — charged couple device) which, via a row of minute light dots, 'reads' the black, white and grey areas of a page of text and graphics and converts them electronically into a format the computer understands. Software is required to encode or 'interpret' the information being sent to the computer, and thus the right scanning software is an essential component of the scanner package (*see Character recognition, flaws and all*).

OCR buying tips

To make the OCR purchasing and scanning process easier, consider the following suggestions.

Test copies

You'll probably have to purchase your OCR software separately. If this is the case, take with you several test documents — preferably typed or laser printed — which typify the ones you plan to scan. Try several different types of pages: one which is justified (this formatting is prone to losing accuracy when scanned), another unjustified, another incorporating underlining, or italics and capitalisation. Also try a page consisting of two or three typesizes (between 8 and 24 points, for example)

Clean copy

For best results try to ensure the original copy is as clean and typographically uncomplicated as possible. Smudgy originals or those displaying multiple typesizes, columns, sidebars, pull-quotes and complicated headings is asking for trouble — OCR software is easily confused, and a multitude of typographical errors requiring manual correction is the likely result. However, if you want to see how well the OCR meets a real challenge during testing try the ultimate test: a newspaper clipping or magazine article.

Proofread

Once scanned, proofread the results carefully. Some errors are easy to find — as mentioned, the OCR package itself tags unrecognised characters with a bullet or symbol ('~' for example). Other errors are less discernible. Certain characters are frequently substituted for others similar in appearance — an 'm' can become 'rn', an 'i' can be read as an 'l', a 'w' becomes 'vv'. These are harder to pick even if you're an experienced proofreader. In addition, OCR has a disconcerting habit of inserting spaces where none are intended, so it's worth noting how often this happens in a simple document.

Accuracy rates of around 98 per cent on straightforward, uncluttered documents are considered normal. This sounds promising, but on a typical page of 2000 characters, for example, a 98 per cent accuracy rate means there are still 40 errors. Where complicated layouts consisting of multiple columns and several type sizes and styles are presented, accuracy rates drop to around 80 per cent even on high-end packages such as OmniPage Professional.

Keep in mind that faxed material is difficult to recognise, with accuracy rates

sometimes so low items may not worth scanning. Experience will quickly allow you to judge the level of accuracy which will be achieved from different items.

OCR is a developing technology, and for the moment there's no escaping the time you'll spend correcting scanned text. The top-end professional packages — OmniPage Professional, Accutext, WordScan Plus and TypeReader — are geared towards high performance: a combination of user ease, speedy recognition and the highest possible levels of accuracy. But OCR readers and scanning hardware has some way to go before all types of printed communication are processed with ease, and before anyone can truly abandon their proofreading skills.

However, when the best typists can achieve rates of 120 words per minute, the benefits of OCR become clear. OCR can achieve 1000 words per minute. One example of its functionality is that in the space of perhaps an hour, OCR can be used to restore lost spreadsheet, database and other files separated by tabs by scanning old print-outs back into the relevant program, a job which might take a typist days to complete.

text without typing

The number of dots which the scanner divides the page into is known as resolution and varies from machine to machine; however, the minimum standard is 300 dots per inch (dpi). You'll often hear resolution referred to as 300 x 300 dpi which means the number of dots scanned across the page (first figure) equals the number scanned down the page. In general, the dpi across and down are the same, however, some scanners quote unusual ratios such as 600 x 300 dpi which means the resolution is, in fact, less concentrated than 'full' scans of, say, 600 x 600 dpi.

Another thing to keep in mind is that scanning literature may quote two scanner resolutions — these refer to the input and output resolution. The input resolution gives the number of dpi the scanner is capable of taking in, the output resolution describes how many it is capable of transferring to a printer. The input resolution is the important figure because

instance, the important purchasing criteria involves the number of levels of grey the scanner recognises. The Apple Scanner for example, which is no longer actively marketed, recognises just 16 shades of grey compared with the Microtek II's 64 grey scales and 256 shades for Hewlett Packard's ScanJet IIp.

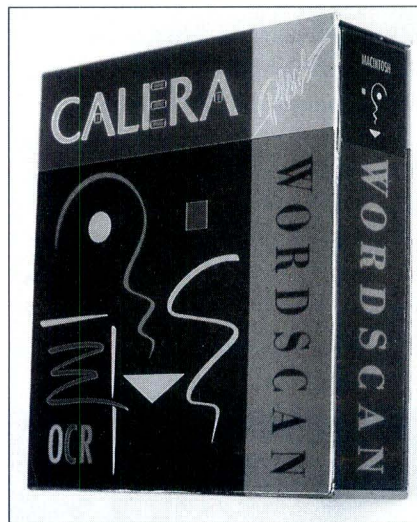
For OCR work and line drawings, grey scales aren't important — the whole image is formed from black and white. Grey-scale art, however, requires the machine to be able to distinguish the different levels of grey found in such things as photographs and shaded illustrations. Photographs can contain an infinite number of grey shades in the range between black and white so it goes without saying that, for this type of work, it's a case of the more grey scales on offer, the better. For the moment the best is 256 levels of grey, however, even this number of shades doesn't necessarily result in the continuous grey shading of a photograph — a grainy, though

acceptably detailed image, is the best you can expect. With photos, 300 dpi grey-scale scanning is great for positionals (low resolution image scans placed imported into DTP packages and printed out on laserprinters to provide the printer with cropping and placement details), but not really acceptable for reproduction.

Reproducing quality grey-scale scans is rarely straightforward, and the process is fraught with other problems, not least of which is the amount of available memory — both disk space and RAM — required to store images. Because of the detailed information sent to the computer during the scanning process, file sizes increase rapidly. A single 5 x 4 inch (127mm x

102mm) photo, for example, scanned at 300 dpi and using 256 grey scales will use almost 2 Mbytes of disk space. In addition, restrictions on computer memory can cause a great drop in processing speed

When scanning text is at its most efficient, a page is simply run through the scanner, read, converted and stored on hard disk.



Calera's OCR software presents in a high-end professional program, as WordScan Plus (\$895), or entry level WordScan at \$495.

and, if you're completely unprepared, can sometimes halt your work altogether.

Character recognition — flaws and all

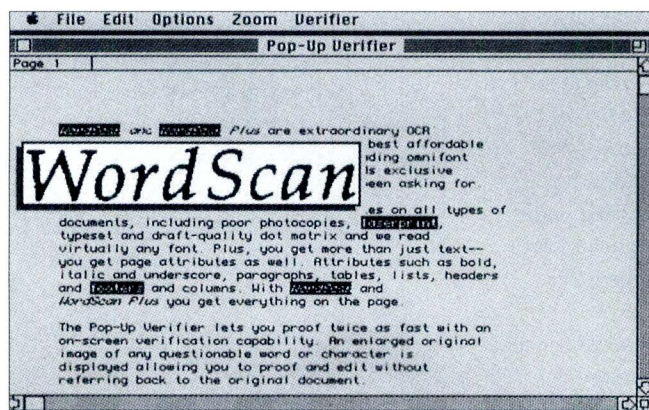
As mentioned, the one area where scanners can provide a real boon to the office is in text scanning and editing. To do this you need to purchase separate OCR software.

OCR works by matching any character against a 'template' in a library of letters with which it is pre-programmed. As the page is scanned, the software compares each character with one in its memory until it comes to one which looks the same. The letter is then substituted for the image and in this way the text of the document is built.

Looking for recognition

The method sounds simple and foolproof, but it's not. Proofing of the scanned document is mandatory since typographical errors do occur. The causes lie in the recognition process.

With OCR each individual typeface has to be programmed into the machine. Normally, a package will offer common typefaces — letter shapes — such as Courier, Times Roman and Helvetica.



WordScan's pop-up Verifier is the program's internal proofing system. It highlights words and characters not recognised during the scanning process for immediate editing.

it controls how accurate the scanner is and determines how much information it picks up from the original page. Printing out at a higher resolution than you scanned in has few advantages and doesn't improve the accuracy of the scanned image.

When purchasing a monochrome scanner consider whether you're going to do a lot of image scanning. In this

text without typing

However, the smallest variation between the typeface on the document and the matching typeface in the OCR may be enough to make it mistake one letter for another. Courier printed out on one printer, for example, may vary slightly from that printed out on another device; a package may fail to recognise the font, create a 'typo' and subsequently reduce the accuracy of the result.

Just as OCRs are programmed with the shape of letters, so they are programmed to recognise letters of certain point sizes.

The standard type size range is between 8 and 24 points, though advanced packages such as AccuText and OmniPage recognise letters to 72 points or higher. Indeed, they are capable of recognising a wide range of type sizes and fonts and are referred to as omnifont programs. It pays to check that the package you're buying can cope with the range of type sizes you're likely to scan.

Searching for typos

Typographical errors occur more frequently with certain types of originals. Take dot matrix and facsimile printouts.

Matrix printers don't produce letters in one smooth sweep, but in a series of dots produced by pins hitting a ribbon and imprinting a character image on the page. The edges of the letters, therefore, are not smooth and rounded as they are on laser output. Likewise, fax messages tend to produce ragged-edged, faded (standard fax resolution is 200 dpi) characters. Differences indiscernible to the naked eye, therefore, can be crude enough to fool the scanner software into thinking it's been presented with another character. Two 'V's can become a 'W'; a poorly printed 'e' can be read as a 'c'.

Equally disabling to a scanner is overly bold, faint or underlined text. Letters which are too bold can run into each other or cause misshapen letters, and the scanner either misreads the letter (for example, an overly bold 'C' is interpreted as an 'O') or is stuck for an answer

entirely. In the latter case it may produce an '@' or '~' sign to indicate an unrecognisable letter.

Training programs

Some of these problems can be addressed. A versatile OCR package, such as that old timer TextScan (still on the market but facing extinction), are provided with inbuilt training features so you can teach it to recognise odd typefaces

or repeated symbols not stored in its memory. It can be programmed to recognise a poorly produced or defective character that runs

consistently through a document. Program 'training' ensures greater accuracy and performance, but it does mean a lot of extra time and work for the user, and is generally only justified where long and typographically complex documents are involved.

When an 'intelligent' OCR program doesn't recognise a particular letter in a word, it tries to match the rest of the word to one in its dictionary.

Optix Pilot

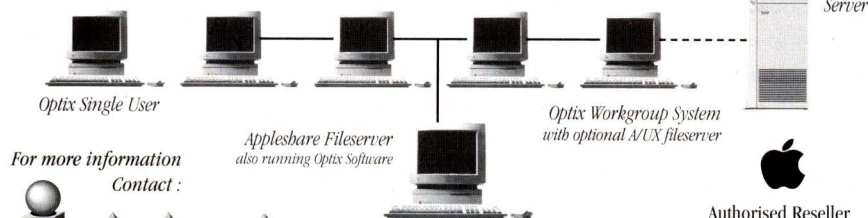
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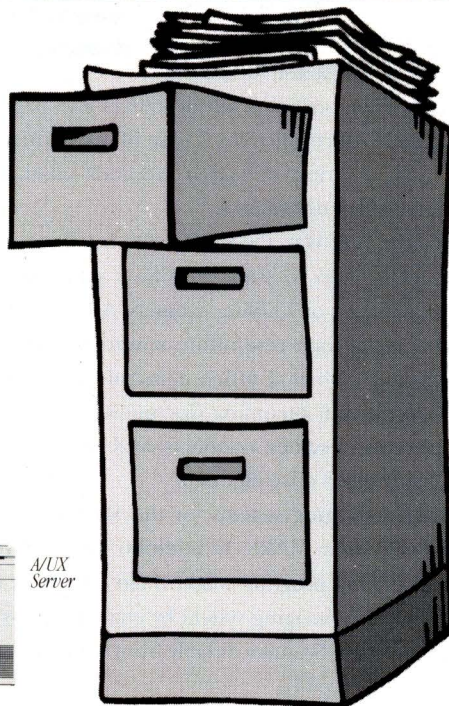


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Intelligent OCR

Many of the problems of OCR occur because the software works with one letter at a time — it makes no link between one character and the next and so has no way of recognising errors obvious to the user.

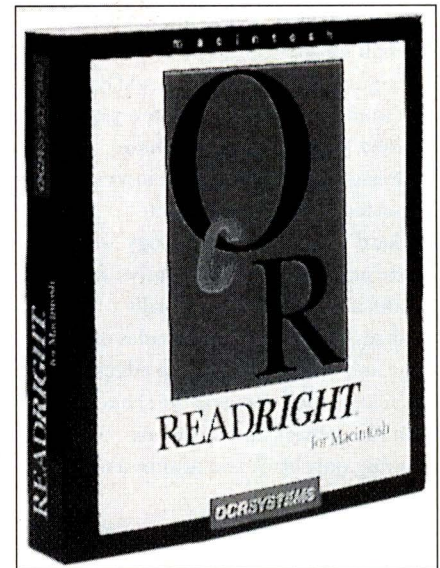
Intelligent packages such as OmniPage Professional, AccuText and the relatively new product, TypeReader, include what amounts to a spell- or word-check; if the software doesn't recognise one particular letter in a word, it tries to match the rest of the word to one in its dictionary. Through this process of deduction it comes up with the most likely choice. This is fine until you present the scanner with a word or symbol, such as a scientific equation, not held in the dictionary. To get around this

problem these packages have user-customisable dictionaries that allow you to add in your own words or symbols. Caere and Xerox Imaging Systems, the developers of AccuText, also sell foreign language dictionaries while ExperVision, developer of TypeReader, includes a foreign language dictionary in the program.

Type out and zoning

Documents other than straight-forward black and white, single column pages create additional problems. You might, for example, present the scanner with text set

ReadRight will run on a Mac Plus or an SE, and features a built-in spellchecker, with pop-up error checker.



OCR Software

Product	AccuText 3	OmniPage Direct	OmniPage 3.0	OmniPage Pro	ReadRight	TypeReader	WordScan	WordScan Plus
Distributor	MacDirect 02 838 8388	OmniPage Australia 02 906 4900	OmniPage Australia 02 906 4900	OmniPage Australia 02 906 4900	Imprint 02 818 3577	To be announced	Indigo Pacific 02 954 9000	Indigo Pacific 02 954 9000
Price	\$1495 (Upgrade \$300)	\$995	\$1495	\$1895	\$995	\$1495	\$495	\$895
Minimum system required	4 Mbytes, Mac II and above	4 Mbytes, Mac II and above	4 Mbytes, Mac II and above	5 Mbytes, Mac II and above System 7	4 Mbytes, Mac SE, Classic and above	4 Mbytes, Mac II and above	4 Mbytes, Mac Plus and above	4 Mbytes, Mac Plus and above
Point size recognised	6-24pt	6-71pt	6-72pt	6-72pt	6-72pt	5-64pt	6-28pt	6-28pt
Number of languages recognised	10	11	11	11	International Character Set	Multi lingual	N/S*	N/S*
Auto/manual zoning	Auto & Manual	Auto & Manual	Auto & Manual	Auto & Manual	Auto & Manual	Auto & Manual	N/A*	Yes
Designate multiple zones	Yes (40)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes (100)
Zone templates	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Deferred batch recognition	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Background operation	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Trainable mode	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Auto	No	No
Spell-check	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Text edit window	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

N/S* = Not supplied, N/A* = Not applicable

text without typing

against a shaded background making it difficult for the scanner to clearly distinguish the letters. In the old days, the text would have got lost; however both Hewlett-Packard and Caere have addressed this problem with more advanced technology. Hewlett Packard's AccuPage technology, which Caere and an increasing number of products support, automatically analyses grey or coloured shades on a page and looks for the sharp edges of the text. It then converts the shaded scan into a black and white one showing only black text against a white background.

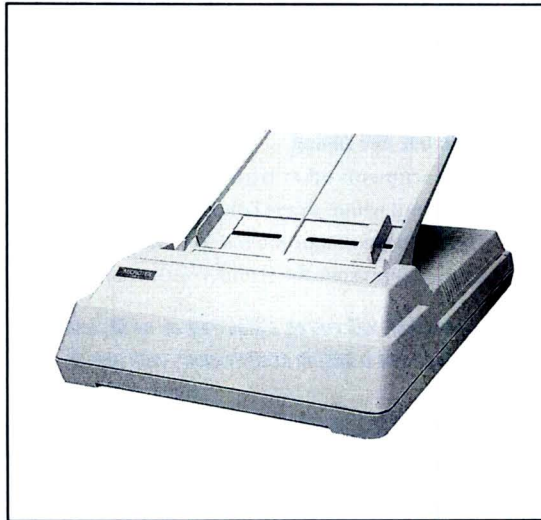
Some of the most difficult originals a scanner has to cope with are magazine or newspaper clippings. That's because they usually contain complicated page layouts comprising snaked columns, pull-quotes, sidetext and captions all designed to throw a scanner into a frenzy. After all, if you're a one-track reader where do you start ordering the many columns and blocks of text you're confronted with?

The answer lies with the user and the software's ability to create zones. You can tell the scanner which areas or zones — columns for example — you want it to recognise and in which order they are to appear. If you don't, sidebars, captions and pull-quotes can end up interspersed with the body of the text, tables are re-read as long lists of columns (since the scanner reads from top to bottom instead of across) and chaos reigns. Most programs have an automatic zoning feature, which works well for simple layouts, but for more complex designs, manual preparation by a skilled user is necessary. Once zones have been described for a particular page, programs let you save these definitions as templates so they can be applied to frequently-used page designs.

Batch and background recognition

Some programs offer deferred or batch recognition and background recognition features. Deferred recognition lets you scan a number of pages but holds off scanning these until a suitable time, such as after hours when the

computer isn't being used. Background recognition, like background printing, allows the recognition process to continue behind the scenes, freeing you up to carry on with other tasks. For this feature to



Microtek's low cost MS-II is operated in the same way as a fax machine, and provides an onboard 50-sheet document feeder.

operate efficiently, however, you need a high end processing Mac — a 68020 at the minimum — and plenty of available RAM.

The cheapest, the dearest...and the latest

OmniPage has been market leader and defacto industry standard over recent years. It is also one of the most accurate readers available and, for these reasons alone, one might just be persuaded to pay the high price tag (\$1895 for OmniPage Professional). For users not so easily persuaded, an entry-level version with fewer features, OmniPage Direct, is available for just under \$1000.

But a leader never goes unchallenged and several competitors are offering comparable results at lower prices. Rival packages have had a relatively low profile in Australia due to OmniPage's presence, haphazard marketing and distribution, and the inherent problems of selling on a small market. OCR distribution reads like an armchair traveller's guide; you just don't know where a product's going to turn up next. The highly regarded


WordScan, for example, has been distributed through numerous dealers and has only recently found a new home with Indigo Pacific. (That company, it's worth noting, has neatly pruned

WordScan's former price by \$1000 — the high end version, WordScan Plus, retails for \$895. In addition, WordScan basic is currently being bundled with HP's ScanJet IIC or IIP for \$2061 through InfoMagic).

AccuText, once the proud possession of Image Products has been handed to MacDirect. TextPert, once imported by Practical Imports, has been dropped. ReadRight's life has been relatively dull: it remains with Imprint.

TypeReader, from ExperVision, was to have been released by Image Products last month. Its debut has been postponed however, with the announcement that Image Products has ceased trading. However, you can expect to see this package available through another distributor very soon and, with a retail price of less than \$1500 it is expected to give the market leader a run for its money.

Originally designed for recognising foreign language symbols such as Japanese Kanji, TypeReader uses a technology known as machine-learned fragment analysis (MLFA). MLFA is considered superior to standard omnifont technology since it recognises non-standard fonts, speeds up the recognition process and ensures greater accuracy across all types of originals.

Calera (WordScan) offers a cut down version of its high-end OCR product, similar to OmniPage Direct. These work the same way as their high-end cousins, but tend to be less full-featured, and generally less accurate. A third version of OmniPage, OmniPage 3, sells for \$1495, while Calera offers the simpler WordScan 1.0 at \$495. 

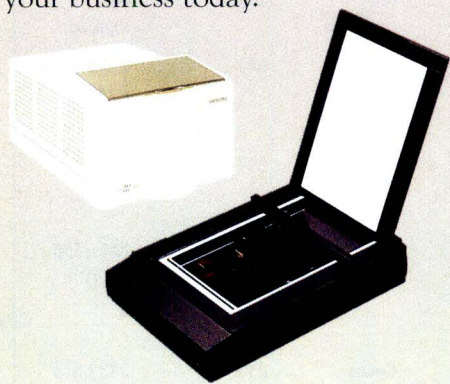
Monica McCormack is a regular writer of specialist feature stories for MacNews. Her last story 'Storage Alternatives: Facing the backup and storage dilemma' appeared in the September issue.

Monochrome scanners

Product	Supplier	List price	Scanner type	SCSI Interface	Resolution (dpi)	Maximum scanning width/depth (mm)	Document feeder	Maximum number of grey scales	Size (W x D x H)
AppleOne Scanner	Apple Computer 02 452 8000	\$1595	Flatbed	Included	300	216 x 356	None	256	345 x 554 x 112
Canon IX-30F	Canon Australia 02 8870166	\$2995	Flatbed	Included	300	216 x 297	Option (\$995)	256	343 x 478 x 92
Fujitsu M3096G	ACA Pacific 02 9539536	\$9800 (ex. tax)	Flatbed	Included	400	279 x 432	Included	256	679 x 497 x 163
Hewlett Packard IIP	InfoMagic 02 9303900	\$2061	Flatbed	Included	300	216 x 297	Option	256	286 x 405 x 79
Lightscan 400PS	Pactronics 02 7484700	\$2295	Handheld	Included	400	full page	Included	64	Not supplied
Lightning Scan Compact	Try & Byte 02 9065227	\$594	Handheld	Included	400	106	Not applicable	37	Not supplied
Lightning Scan 400	Try & Byte	\$771	Handheld	Included	400	106	Not applicable	37	Not supplied
Lightning Scan Pro	Try & Byte	\$1049	Handheld	Included	400	106	Not applicable	256	Not supplied
Microtek MS II	Allaw Technologies 02 415 9111	\$2295	Roll fed	Included	300	216 x 297	50-sheet standard	64	356 x 457 x 140
Microtek 600/G	Allaw Technologies 02 415 9111	\$2350	Flatbed	Included	600	216 x 297	Option (\$1025)	256	394 x 570 x 140
Panasonic RS307U	Roland Digital Group 02 9828266	\$2622	Flatbed	SCSI Interface \$805	600	216 x 356	Option (\$1104)	256	343 x 516 x 130
Panasonic RS506U	Roland Digital Group 02 9828266	\$1909	Flatbed	SCSI Interface \$805	400	216 x 356	Option (\$1104)	256	343 x 516
Typist Plus Graphics Editor	OmniPage Australia 02 9064900	\$1233	Handheld	Included	300	105	Not applicable	256	Not supplied
TECO TopScan	TECO Australia 02 7251233	\$2095	Flatbed	Included	300	216 x 360	Option \$995	256	250 x 368 x 130
Umax UG-630	Computer Enterprises of Australia 09 4545889	\$2286	Flatbed	Included	600/300	216 x 356	Option	256	534 x 340 x 129

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The affordable OCR combination.

The MS-II scanner, with its in-built 50 page document feeder, has been designed specifically for re-entering multiple pages of text.

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PRICE GUIDE
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AS AT
NOVEMBER 11TH
1992

Description	RRP (Inc. Tax)	Description	RRP (Inc. Tax)
COMPUTERS		APPLE MONITORS	
Macintosh Classic II 2Mb HD40	\$1995	Macintosh 12" Monochrome Display	\$545
Macintosh Classic II 4Mb HD40	\$2295	Macintosh 12" RGB	\$895
Macintosh Classic II 4Mb HD80	\$2495	Macintosh 14" RGB Color Display	\$995
Macintosh LC II 2Mb Floppy	\$2195	Macintosh Portrait Display	\$1595
Macintosh LC II 2Mb HD40	\$2395	Macintosh 16 Color Display	\$2995
Macintosh LC II 4Mb HD40	\$2495	Macintosh 21 Color Display	\$7995
Macintosh LC II 4Mb HD80	\$2695		
Macintosh LC II bundle 4Mb/HD40, 12 RGB monitor	\$2995		
Macintosh IIfx 4Mb HD80	\$3795	SYSTEM 7 UPGRADES	
Macintosh IIfx 5Mb HD80 with CD	\$4295	System 7 group upgrade CD-ROM B	\$1250
Macintosh IIfx 4Mb HD160	\$4295	QuickTime Starter Kit	\$195
Macintosh IIsi 5Mb HD80	\$3995	QuickTime with CD-ROM drive	\$995
Macintosh IIfx 5Mb Floppy	\$5495	QuickTime with System 7 PUK	\$295
Macintosh IIfx 5Mb HD80 with cache	\$5995		
Macintosh IIfx 5Mb HD230 with cache	\$6495	APPLE DISPLAY CARDS etc	
Macintosh IIfx 4Mb HD80 with cache	\$4795	Apple II Video Overlay Card	\$495
Macintosh IIfx 5Mb HD160 with cache, CD	\$5795	Macintosh 8*24 Display Card	\$1295
Macintosh IIfx 4Mb HD160 with cache	\$5295	Macintosh 8*24GC Display Card	\$2995
Quadra 700 4Mb Floppy	\$8495	Macintosh VRAM Expansion Kit	\$295
Quadra 700 4Mb HD80	\$8995	DRAM Expansion Kit	\$895
Quadra 700 4Mb HD230	\$9495	Mac LV 512 K VRAM	\$295
Quadra 700 4Mb/HD400	\$10,295		
Quadra 950 8Mb Floppy	\$11,995	PRINTERS & SCANNERS	
Quadra 950 8Mb HD230	\$12,995	ImageWriter II Printer	\$745
Quadra 950 8Mb HD400	\$15,295	Apple StyleWriter Printer	\$845
PowerBook 100 2Mb HD40 with floppy	\$2495	Apple OneScanner	\$1795
PowerBook 100 4Mb HD40 with floppy	\$2795	Personal LaserWriter LS	\$1995
PowerBook 145 4Mb HD40	\$3995	Personal LaserWriter NTR	\$3995
PowerBook 160 4Mb HD40	\$4495	LaserWriter IIfx	\$6495
PowerBook 160 4Mb HD80	\$4995	LaserWriter IIg	\$7995
PowerBook 160 4Mb HD120	\$5495		
PowerBook 180 4Mb HD80	\$6995	POWERBOOK GOODIES	
PowerBook 180 4Mb HD120	\$7495	PowerBook 2Mb Expansion Kit	\$495
Duo 210 4Mb HD80	\$4495	PowerBook 4Mb Expansion Kit	\$995
Duo 230 4Mb HD80	\$5495	HDI-20 External 1.4Mb Floppy Disk Drive	\$295
Duo 230 4Mb HD120	\$5995	PowerBook AC Adaptor	\$115
Duo Dock	\$2395	Apple HDI-30 SCSI Disk Adaptor	\$85
		Apple HDI-30 SCSI System Cable	\$85
		PowerBook rechargeable battery	\$115
		PowerBook battery recharger	\$195
KEYBOARDS		APPLE DRIVES	
Apple Keyboard II	\$195	Apple External 1.4Mb SuperDrive	\$545
Apple Extended Keyboard II	\$395	AppleCD SC Plus	\$895
		AppleCD 150	\$895
MEMORY		AppleCD 300	\$1195
Apple 2Mb Memory Expansion Kit	\$350		
Apple 4Mb Memory Expansion Kit	\$695		
Apple 8Mb Memory Expansion Kit	\$1395		

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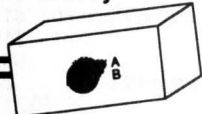
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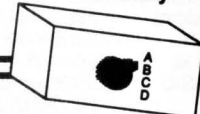
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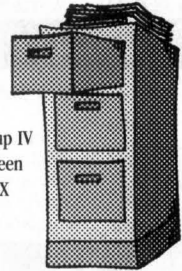
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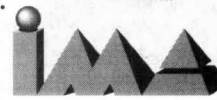


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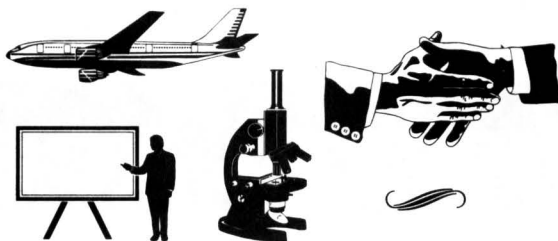
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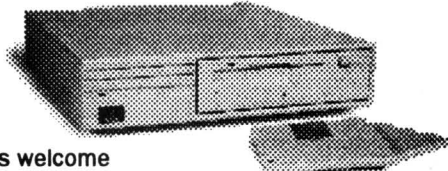
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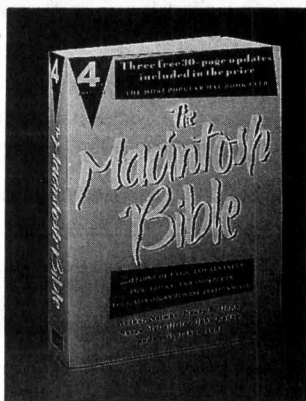


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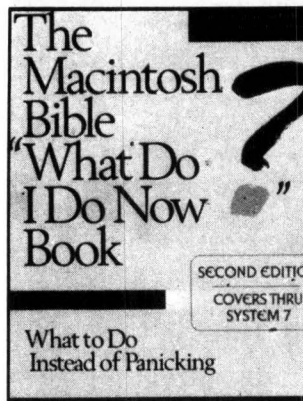
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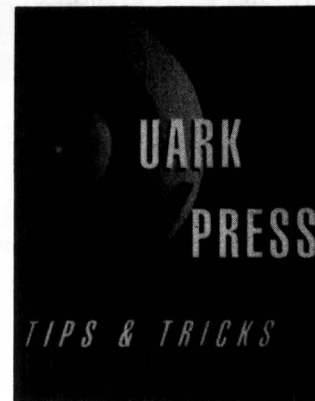
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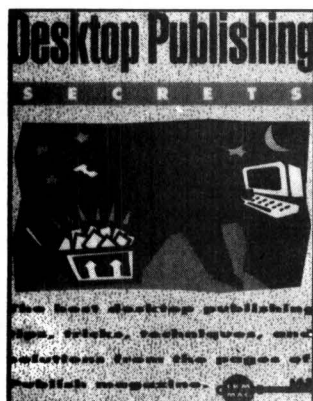
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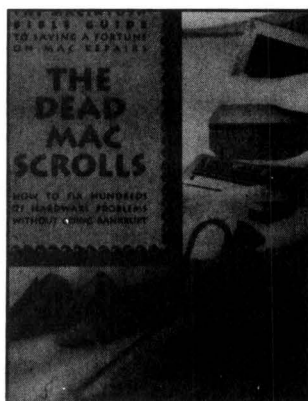
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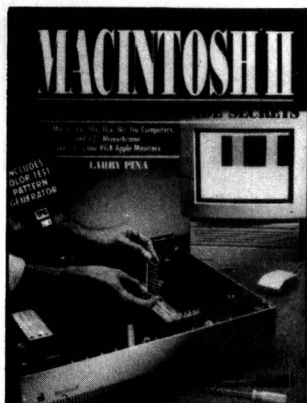
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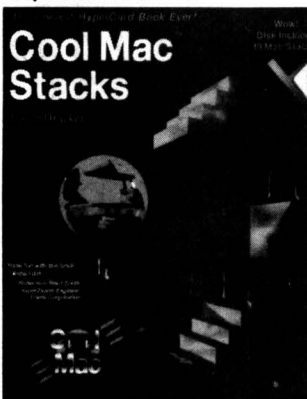


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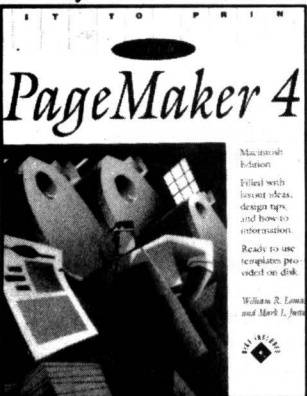
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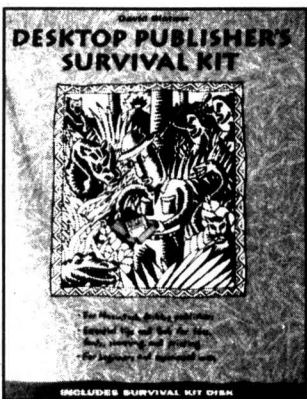
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When you're incredibly busy and want to get organised, you need First Things First - a lightning fast To Do List and Reminder system. Use First Things First to manage tasks by priority as well as by schedule. Click on the floating clock icon or use a hot key and you'll know what to do next! Set up reminders that are effective but non-disruptive. First Things First lets you see in a split second what is urgent, and helps you to stay on top of what's important! It's a Priority Management/Reminder tool that you'll use whenever you're at your Mac.

Cost of demo disk: \$5.00

Send coupon to MacNews Demo Disk Offer, c/- Richard De Vere, PICA Software, 487 King St, West Melbourne, VIC, 3003

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Telecom Business Finder gives you quick, easy access to Australia's most complete official business listing. It is your own personal database of business listed in all 55 metropolitan and regional Yellow Pages directories.

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duplication of records and more.

The demonstration is a fully featured simulations of the actual product but operates on a very small database. You can practice search routines, export, print labels and even autodial (if you have a modem attached to your computer).

Cost of demo (2 disks): \$10.00

Send coupon to MacNews Demo Disk Offer, Telecom Business Finder, Locked Bag No. 27, Box Hill 3128 or fax your business card to 03 899 5542 or phone 008 036 003 (free call).

Clarix Resolve

CLARIS CORPORATION

Simply Powerful Software. Resolve features an intuitive user interface that combines ease of use, full System 7.0 capabilities and colourful graphics with powerful new spreadsheet functionality. Create financial models, analyse numerical data with superior charting and presentation capabilities. Resolve also offers advanced power including a robust scripting language, to enable users to automate repetitive tasks. Upgrades to other spreadsheet users available.

Cost of Demo Disk: free

Send coupon to MacNews Demo Disk Offer, Clarix, 95 Burwood, NSW 2134 or phone 02 744 3033

Filemaker Pro

CLARIS CORPORATION

Filemaker Pro, the successor to the best-selling Macintosh Database, combines an intuitive Mac interface with powerful searching and reporting capabilities. Filemaker Pro makes managing and organising large amounts of data easy. You'll produce directories, catalogues, mailing labels - faster and easier than ever before.

Features include the capacity to use built-in MacDraw-like graphic tools, sort data by any fields in any order, automate common operations, import and export SYLK, text and BASIC files, import graphics from most Macintosh applications and built-in multi-user and AppleTalk capabilities.

Cost of Demo Disk: Free

Send coupon to MacNews Demo Disk Offer, Clarix, 95 Burwood Road, Burwood, NSW 2134 or phone 02 744 3033

M.Y.O.B.

DATA-TECH SOFTWARE

M.Y.O.B. is an accounting software package for the Mac designed to help you Mind Your Own Business. Through its intuitive operation and clever use of the Mac users interface, M.Y.O.B. makes accounting simple, while still providing a full set of

features. M.Y.O.B. comprises a Cashbook, General Ledger (with purchase orders), Inventory and Card File in an integrated package. Rather than being simply an accounting package, M.Y.O.B. is really a business or home finance management tool, with more than accounting features included.

Cost of Demo Disk: \$10.00

Send coupon to MacNews Demo Disk Offer, Data Tech Software, Suite 20/273 Alfred St. North Sydney or phone 008 809 9264 for details.

Now up -to-date

TRIO TECHNOLOGY

Keeping your schedule in synch is a breeze with Now-Up-To-Date, the fantastic calendar application for the Macintosh. Undoubtedly the most user friendly of scheduling programs, within minutes you'll be coordinating your appointments and meetings with everyone in the office. Create multiple calendars for meetings, holidays, birthday parties etc. and filter out the information you're not interested in. Access the public calendars remotely when travelling with a Powerbook. View by day, by week, multiple weeks, a month, multiple months, or a year at a glance. Automatic reminder feature notifies you of important events. Customise your calendar easily with colours, banners or post-it notes.

Cost of Demo Disk: free

Send coupon to MacNews Demo Disk Offer, Trio Technology, 100 Talinga Rd, Cheltenham, Vic 3192 or phone 03 585 0566

Help!

TRIO TECHNOLOGY

Help! is the first intelligent Macintosh software product that actually pinpoints conflicts, incompatibilities and other problems and tells you what to do with them. Using its SMART technology expert system, HELP! draws information from its built-in knowledgebase, the single largest source of Mac problem information available. INIT conflicts, incompatibilities between system software and hardware, applications and system software or hardware, improperly installed files and even duplicate files are just some of the problems that will be detected. Help! produces a smart looking, comprehensive report listing all of your machine's problems and gives detailed suggestions for fixing them - all by yourself - at your own desktop.

Cost Of Demo Disk: free

Send coupon to MacNews Demo Disk Offer, Trio Technology, 100 Talinga Rd, Cheltenham, Vic 3192 or phone 03 585 0566

ClarixWorks

CLARIS CORPORATION

ClarisWorks is the revolutionary new integrated software for Macintosh that enables users to manage their work, rather than their software. ClarisWorks delivers power to the integrated software category with robust word processing, graphics, spreadsheets, charting, database management and communications "environment". The environments are interactive, providing a seamless integration of tools, so functions can be activated from a single page. This breakthrough in interface design provides more natural computing, so users can add text, graphics, calculations and charts to their documents at any point. ClarisWorks users will also enjoy unique growth-path advantages, since the user interface and environment are so consistent with those of other Claris products.

Cost of Demo Disk: Free

Send coupon to MacNews Demo Disk Offer, Claris, 95 Burwood Rd, Burwood, NSW 2134 or phone 02 744 3033

SmartSchedules 1.0

JAM SOFTWARE PTY LTD

Smart Schedules is a group network and personal scheduling system which provides simultaneous viewing and access to multiple schedules which have a familiar and intuitive "Real Life" schedules filing card metaphor. You can organise and notify people of meetings. Set reminders for yourself and others, keep to do lists, organise yourself into workgroups for your most common groupings and search for available times across or within a schedule. Gather disparate notes on various topics that have been recorded over time. Time breakdowns can be varied and day, week, month and yearly summary notes can be viewed. Full access privileges can be set with multiple security appointments and reminders. Displays three month floating calendar, week, month, year and day views. Notify others of unavailability. Make important information stand out, with multiple fonts, styles and sizes. Print out lists and ranges of lists of your daily, weekly or monthly activities in a variety of diary formats with adjustable page sizes and date ranges in fixed or dynamic time breakdowns. Schedules can be exported, imported and printed in many ways. Runs on any Macintosh network. P.C. version is planned for 1992

Cost of Demo Disk: \$10.00

Send coupon to MacNews Demo Disk Offers, JAM Software Pty Ltd, 513 Liverpool Rd, South Strathfield, NSW 2138, or phone 02 742 5922.

Smart Alarms & Appointment Diary

JAM SOFTWARE PTY LTD

Smart Alarms and Appointment Diary is the multiple Award Winning Australian Time Management Application. This application allows the user to easily create reminders and appointments in a diary format. Set up to 1600 Reminders in the full application. It allows the user to be reminded of important events at any point into the future and appears on your screen in whatever application you

are using. Re-occurring reminders and advanced warnings are also incorporated in this package. Created to sit in your Apple Menu, these two programs are accessed easily. Appointment Diary is also compatible for Multi-User Networks running AppleShare, Tops, Allshare & PSN. Print both your reminders and diary in many formats. Import and Export from both these applications. System 7 Compatible. Demonstration Disk is limited to only 1 reminder.

Cost of Demo Disk: \$5.00

Send coupon to MacNews Demo Disk Offer, JAM Software Pty Ltd, 513 Liverpool Rd, South Strathfield, NSW 2136 or phone 02 742 5922

WriteNow Version 3.0 -UK/Australian Version.

Third Party Imports

WriteNow combines power and performance in an award-winning word processing package. WriteNow provides WYSIWYG editing and is easy to use, fast, and the most compact business word processor available requiring only 325k of RAM. Features include: custom style sheets for fast global changes to your documents, colour text and graphics, a robust print preview, mail merge with conditional selections, multiple columns, multiple header and footers, footnotes, extensive undos including case change, a UK dictionary and thesaurus, and more. WriteNow is compatible with Microsoft Word, Works, MacWrite, PC WordPerfect, Pagemaker, and Quark XPress and other word processing and page layout applications.

Cost of Demo Disk: \$5.00

Send coupon to MacNews Demo Disk Offer, Third Party Imports Pty Ltd P.O. 132 Bangor NSW 2234.

X-Per V2.0

MICRO PLANNING INTERNATIONAL PTY LTD

For only \$100 (fully refundable - conditions apply) you can own a working version of the Leading Macintosh Project Management system, including a detailed 180 page Tutorial Manual to guide you through the package. If your projects are small (the number of records processed are limited) our "Sampler" set may be all you ever require. However, after using the "Sampler" will you be able to resist the extra features and power of the full commercial versions?

Naturally, as the Mac's leading Project Management system, Micro Planner System 7 compliant, has a full range of management facilities, brilliant graphics and much more. Four disks and one manual (181 pages)

Cost of Sampler Set: \$100.00 (Fully refundable - conditions apply)

Send coupon to MacNews Demo Disk Offer, Micro Planning International Pty Ltd, PO Box 641, Springwood, QLD 4127.

FormsDesigner

COMMUNICATION RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA (CRIA)

FormsDesigner gives you a simple means of creating user friendly forms. Based on 8 years of

research by international leaders in the field, FormsDesigner is the only software that puts well researched rules of good design at your fingertips. Demo disks come with a help system that will teach you how to use the program, and sample forms that will show you some of the possibilities there are for creating well designed forms. Only Save is disabled on the Demo disk. You will need 2.4 Mb free and a hard disk to run FormsDesigner.

Cost of Demo Disk (set of 2): \$10.00

Send coupon to Julie Dixon, MacNews Demo Disk Offer, CRIA PO Box 8, Hackett, ACT 2602.

Painter 1.2

LETRASET AUSTRALIA

Painter is a 24-bit colour painting program which simulates traditional painting techniques, adapting real artists' tools and textures for use on the computer screen. With Painter you can originate illustrations or apply natural effects to existing scanned images. You can even go a stage further and paint and apply styles of Van Gogh and Seurat! The 'cloning' tool enables you to open an image and draw using a wide range of style. Images can be cloned directly and traced using the tracing paper tool. Each drawing tool can then be applied to give many interpretations of the same artwork.

Cost of Demo Disk: \$10.00

Send coupon to MacNews Demo Disk Offer, Letraset Australia, 5/4 Skyline Place, Frenchs Forest, NSW 2086 or phone 02 975 1033

LetraStudio 2.0

LETRASET AUSTRALIA

LetraStudio is a superior typographical product with facilities to set, manipulate or distort typefaces and imported graphics to achieve effects which previously could only be created using sophisticated camera lenses. Line art imported from Adobe Illustrator (as outlines) can be filled with colour and manipulated in the same way as type. Both LetraStudio screen objects and imported line art can be grouped together into a single graphic. LetraStudio is extremely easy to use, very fast and designed to give you the creative potential to produce truly eye catching designs. LetraStudio will use any commonly available font format on the Macintosh.

Cost of Demo Disk: \$10.00

Send coupon to MacNews Demo Disk Offer, Letraset Australia, 5/4 Skyline Place, Frenchs Forest, NSW 2086 or phone 02 975 1033.

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MACNEWS GUIDE TO SOFTWARE PRICES

DECEMBER, 1992

The following guide is meant to be just that. The prices listed are recommended retail prices including sales tax, and in many cases is not payable if the software is used as an aid to manufacture. Additionally, as software is like any other commodity subject to fickle laws of supply and demand, it pays to shop around. Because there are many discount software houses and dealerships which will negotiate on price, we encourage you to look through the pages of MacNews and shop around to get the best price.

Distributors are requested to send upgrade notifications, price or distributorship changes to: Software Updates, MacNews, PO Box 2043, St Kilda West, VIC 3182.

Please note that the deadline for the new listings or price changes is 5pm, 18th December.

WORD PROCESSORS/OUTLINERS

Bank Street writer	Ashton Scholastic	(043)283555	\$149.95
FullWrite Pro	Sourceware	(02)427799	\$450
MacWrite II	Merisel	(02)8828888	\$199
Microsoft Word	Merisel	(02)8828888	\$550
MindWrite	Ozi Soft	(02)3136444	\$299
Nisus Xs	Trio Technology	(02)5850566	\$99
Taste	Trio Technology	(02)5850566	\$199
Think & Write	Dataflow	(02)3102020	\$60
WordPerfect	Mitsui Computer	(02)4520452	\$579
WriteNow	TechPacific	(02)6978666	\$229

OPTICAL CHARACTER READING

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readingEdge	MacDirect	(02)6746366	\$175
ReadRight	Imprint	(02)8183577	\$995
TextPert	Practical Imports	(065)502304	\$1495
TextScan	MacDirect	(02)6746366	\$599
Typist	OmniPage	(02)9064900	\$1095
WordScan Plus	Delairco	(02)4150300	\$1895

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Desk	Trio Australia	(02)5850566	\$595
GreatWorks	PC Extras	(02)3192155	\$230
Mircosoft Office	Merisel	(02)8828888	\$1225
Microsoft Works II	Merisel	(02)8828888	\$230
RagTime 3	MacDirect	(03)3265255	\$875
SmartBundle	Third Party Imports	(02)5410016	\$199

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Correct Grammar	Sourceware	(02)4277999	\$159
Docucomp	Techflow	(063)557009	\$235
Grammatik Mac	Logo Computer	(02)9051844	\$169
MacEnvelope	Merisel	(02)8828888	\$196
Thunder 7	Third Party Imports	(02) 5410016	\$116

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Full Impact II	Sourceware	(02)4277999	\$450
Lotus 123	Merisel	(02)8828888	\$755
Microsoft Excel	Merisel	(02)8828888	\$650

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Aldus Persuasion	InfoMagic	(02)9303900	\$849
CA Cricket Graph	Sourceware	(02)9232066	\$255
Cricket Presents	Sourceware	(02)9232066	\$299
DeltaGraph	Trio Technology	(03)5850566	\$389
GraphMaster	Minicomp	(02)0576800	\$921
MacFlow	PICA Software	(03)3265255	\$495
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MindMap	DataFlow	(02)3102020	\$120
NuVista VideoScript	Firmware Design	(047)217211	\$995
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Reports!	Lidcam	(03)8209077	\$265
Spyglass Transform	Metronix	(02)4494620	\$997
Spyglass Dicer	Metronix	(02)4494620	\$997
TopDown	Techflow	(063)557009	\$465
WinView	Techflow	(063)557009	\$350

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Adobe Smart Art	InfoMagic	(02)9303900	\$267
Adobe Streamline	InfoMagic	(02)9303900	\$335
Aldus Freehand	InfoMagic	(02)9303900	\$998
Amazing Paint	CoNeXus	(02)9752799	\$195
Art Importer, The	InfoMagic	(02)9303900	\$295
BannerMania	Dataflow	(02)3102020	\$90
CA Cricket Draw	Computer Ass	(02)9232066	\$255
Canvas	PICA	(03)3265255	\$650
Color-It	Dataflow	(02)3102020	\$199
ColorStudio	Allaw Technologies	(02)4159111	\$1695
Crystal Paint	Dataflow	(02)3316153	\$85
Digital Darkroom	InfoMagic	(02)9303900	\$598
Easy ColorPaint	IC Technologies	(03)8183700	\$99
FullPaint	Sourceware	(02)4277999	\$149
ImageStudio	Allaw Technologies	(02)4159111	\$395
MacDraw II	Merisel	(02)8828888	\$325
MacDraw Pro	Merisel	(02)8828888	\$625
MacPaint II	Merisel	(02)8828888	\$199
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Studio/1	Firmware Design	(047)217211	\$199
Studio/8	Firmware Design	(047)217211	\$499
Studio/32	Firmware Design	(047)217211	\$899
UltraPaint	PICA Software	(03)3265255	\$345

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MacTopas	VideoBytes	(03)6909278	\$13,500
RayDream Designer	Pro Foto Group	(06)2804009	\$1595
StrataVision 3d	AD&D	(049)341091	\$1299
Super 3d	InfoMagic	(02)9303900	\$779
SuperPaint	InfoMagic	(02)9303900	\$298
Swivel 3D Pro	Firmware Design	(047)217211	\$995
ZING	Mindscape Inter.	(02)8992277	\$249
Zoom	Smart Technology	(02)9050050	\$4500

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Aldus PageMaker 4	InfoMagic	(02)9303900	\$1298
DesignStudio	Allaw Technologies	(02)4159111	\$895
FrameMaker	InfoMagic	(02)9303900	\$1999
Informed Designer	Trio Technology	(03)5850566	\$550
Multi-Ad Creator	Trio Technology	(03)5850566	\$1595
Page Director	Show-Ads	(03)3471722	\$1495
Personal Press	InfoMagic	(02)9303900	\$496
Publish It Easy!	Dataflow	(02)3102020	\$360

QuarkXPress	Mitsui Computer	(02)4520452	\$1495
Ready, Set, Go! 4.5	Allaw Technologies	(02)4159111	\$475
SmartForms Ass	Merisel	(02)8828888	\$85
SmartForms Des	Merisel	(02)8828888	\$615
Ventura Publisher	MegaVision	(02)9751877	\$1195
LetraStudio	Allaw Technologies	(02)4159111	\$495
Font Studio	Allaw Technologies	(02)4159111	\$895
Font Monger	Allaw Technologies	(02)4159111	\$185
Forms Designer	CRIA	(06)2573155	\$490

DATABASES

4th Dimension	TQD	(06)2495880	\$1299
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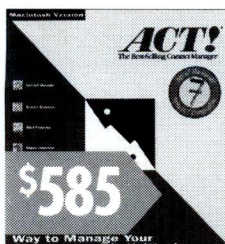
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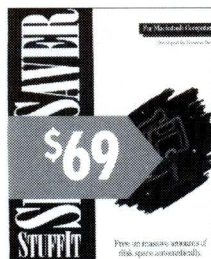
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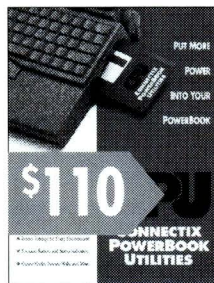
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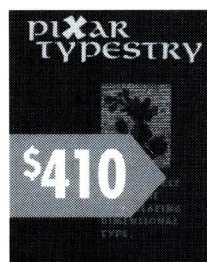
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How to HYPERCARD

Part 5: Tailoring HyperCard

In our final article this month we look at a number of add-ons which enhance HyperCard and turn a great environment into a truly powerful tool. We also look at tailoring some resources to our own needs with ResEdit.

By Terry Dillon

Answers to last month's questions

Why did we create the button in the background?

The button is to appear on many cards, not just the current card. The button will appear on all cards sharing the same background.

Why did we use the condition 'On mouseUp' and not 'On mouseDown' which is also a legitimate condition?

The standard Mac user interface allows the user to click on a button, but only complete the choice if the mouse button is released while still over the button. If the user releases the mouse button outside the button no activity is required. In the button info dialogue the script button is followed by an ellipsis (three dots). Why?

In any option whose name is followed by the ellipsis the user can expect a dialogue of some sort, for example a file dialogue box.

HyperCard add-ons

There are a number of add-ons for HyperCard such as Reports for HyperCard, Dialogger Pro, Compile It... the list goes on. These add-ons are available from third-party vendors, bulletin boards and from AAPDA (the Australian Apple Programmers and Developers Association) which can be contacted on 02 452 8245. As well,

HyperCard may be modified using ResEdit, and external commands and functions may be added. Apple actually ships a number of add-ons with HyperCard. Have a look at Power Tools, for instance.

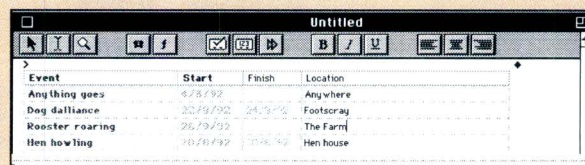
Power Tools is included with HyperCard (developer's version) and sports PICT handling, searching within a list or field, multiple choice selection from a list with a choice of up to four actions on the selection, and the ability to create palettes and to move resources between stacks. For anyone doing HyperCard development or interested in getting more out of HyperCard, it is worth the extra dollars for the developer's version.

Reports for HyperCard

Reviewers trying to define HyperCard declaim its database ability because of its poor reporting and limited searching capability. Reports for HyperCard well and truly removes these weaknesses, and is by far my favourite add-on for HyperCard. Reports is now into version 2.5 and gives HyperCard a reporting facility approached only by 4th Dimension. You can forget FileMaker, and the only point in which 4D outscores Reports is in the

ability to utilise relational data. In all other areas Reports outscores 4D, and Reports does not have that insidious copy protection.

Reports works in a very similar way to most reporting programs in having a header, detail, four break levels plus a common break level (you can take different actions depending on the break



The screenshot shows a window titled 'Untitled' with a menu bar and a toolbar. Below the toolbar is a spreadsheet with four columns: Event, Start, Finish, and Location. The data is as follows:

Event	Start	Finish	Location
Anything goes	4/5/92		Anywhere
Dog dalliance	22/8/92	24/9/92	Footscray
Rooster rearing	26/9/92		The Farm
Hen howling	10/10/92	12/10/92	Hen house

level), summary and footer sections. Reports can generate a report for you as well as allowing you to search and edit HyperCard stacks in a spreadsheet layout.

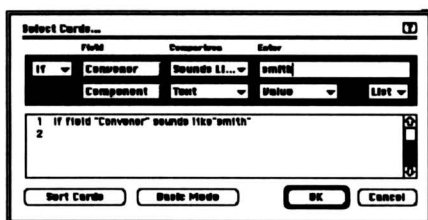
The spreadsheet layout is called a View. To create a view you select the fields you want to use from a list of the fields. You may additionally select and sort the cards to be displayed. Reports then presents the selected fields of the selected records in a spreadsheet layout which can be manipulated just like any spreadsheet. You can move back and forth between this view and the normal card view by a double click of the mouse. You can also edit the data in the View format.

Reports will generate a report for you from the View you created, complete with multiple breaks, sub-totals and grand totals. Alternatively, you may construct a report yourself. There is not a lot of need to script the report, but very complex reports can be compiled with a small amount of scripting.

I bought version one of Reports about three or four years ago and have been a staunch user since. If you are interested, Reports for HyperCard 2.5 and the other Nine to Five products are locally distributed by MacDirect (008 021260). Reports for HyperCard costs \$225 and run-time licences are available for distribution in your stacks.

Other products from Nine to Five Software include Index, Letters, Search, Rescue, Attributes and InSide which are of varying degrees of usefulness.

If you have very large stacks, more than a thousand cards, Index (\$149) may be for you. Index allows you to quickly access any card. For smaller stacks, I think the Find command works quite well, and Nine To Five's Search (\$149) provides comprehensive card selections. Like most index facilities, there is an overhead if you want to maintain the indexes while you add data. Creating the index is slow.



Rescue (\$149), which recovers corrupted HyperCard stacks, is one program I have not used much. I have had one pretty nasty bent stack but there is nothing like a backup, and backups are reasonably cheap.

Attributes (\$149) is for stack developers, allowing them to build in data entry checks, create user editable menu items, popup calendars and much more. You can do most of this reasonably easily using scripts, but Attributes makes it all easier. For me, the import function which allows you to import text files into any stack is great.

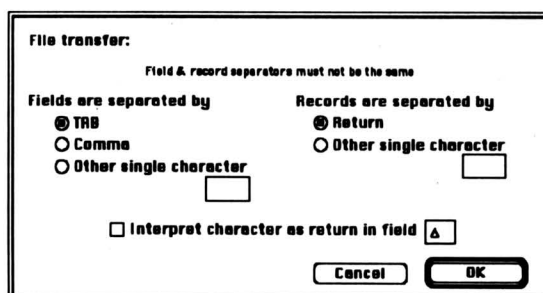
The Find command is good if you want to find the next occurrence of a search value. It is reasonably quick in a small to medium sized stack. Search is very snappy, and it also offers multiple search conditions, search and replace, and a range of search/sort dialogues.

Nine to Five add-ons are fast and functional. However, by the time you buy them all, the free HyperCard platform does not look quite so cheap.

Some Heizer products

From Heizer Software comes such programs as Dialogger Pro and CompileIt! Dialogger Pro allows you to create your own dialogues. I wanted a dialogue which allows the user to input all the information for importing a file to HyperCard without having to wade through multiple dialogues. The choices were Dialogger Pro, ResEdit or a 'card' which was laid out for the dialogue. The card would certainly work, but it means closing the background and reopening it, which is time-consuming if you have a menubar to maintain (the main disadvantage of using menubars). ResEdit is okay, but a bit formidable. I tried both as well as Dialogger Pro, and the latter is far better in many ways.

Believe me, though, Dialogger Pro is not for the less-determined. It is easy to use, but is very, very slow, and sometimes does not do what it should. However, if you grit your teeth and dig your toes in, it does a presentable job giving you an interactive dialogue complete with check boxes, radio buttons, scriptable prompts and more. Dialogues produced by Dialogger Pro can be

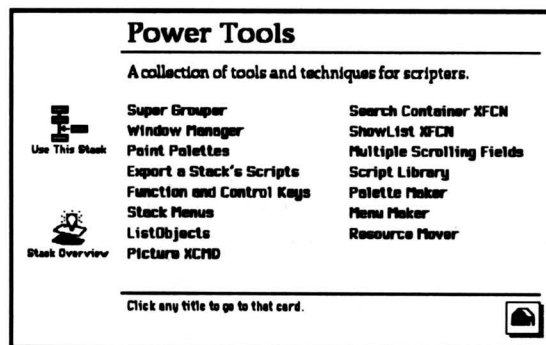


distributed with your stack. Cost is around \$200. Note however that Dialogger Pro has now been discarded and replaced by WindowScript (\$235) which is a considerable improvement.

CompileIt! compiles your scripts. If you want to distribute your stacks and want to protect your code, which really is not in the spirit of HyperCard, or you have some intensive crunching, CompileIt! may be for you. I must admit that although I bought it I have used it very little. It is a bit restricted. Cost is \$235. Again, MacDirect handle the Heizer products.

StackRunner

Stack Runner (\$125), produced by Symmetry, is another HyperCard add-on I have purchased but used little. I dismissed it when I read in the manual that the Repeat command is not supported. The list of supported commands is a bit restrictive, although the concept is good. When StackRunner is installed in a stack, the stack is totally independent and can be launched without the need for HyperCard. For presentations, StackRunner could be quite useful.



Other offerings

There are a number of both Public Domain and commercial external commands which may be useful. Byrne's xCmds, Progress Windoid, HPopUpMenu, Rinaldi xCmds and deProtect are a few. To get these and more, join a user group. Most bulletin boards contain HyperCard stacks and externals. Most of these are Public Domain.

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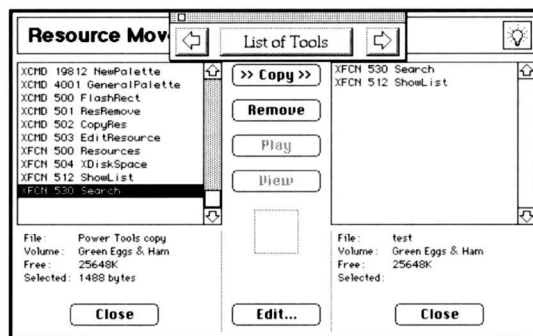
HOW TO HYPERCARD

Some beauties supplied standard

There are a range of xCmds and xFns supplied with HyperCard. Your first stop should be the Power Tools stack. Before you start, make a copy of the Power Tools stack by clicking once on Power Tools and selecting 'Duplicate' from the File menu. This generates Power Tools Copy. Double click on Power Tools to launch it.

We will have a quick look at the Resource Mover, the ShowList xFxn and the Search xFxn. I will leave you to explore the other wonders. Click on the Resource Mover. The following card is displayed:

If you have used Font/DA Mover you will have a head start. Click one of the 'Open...' buttons and select the Power Tools Copy stack. Click the other 'Open...' button and select the stack into which you want to copy any resources.



The Power Tools stack has many resources you can use. Click on xFxn Search and click Copy. Be warned; response is a little slow, but the wait is worth it. Also, copy XFCN ShowList to your stack.

From the file menu select Open and select your stack, the one into which you just copied the resources. In this stack you can now use the ShowList and Search functions as though they are part of your stack. They are.

Create a field called 'names'. Make this a scrolling field and enter six or so names. Into the script of the field type this script:

On mouseUp

Put showList(me,return,"Select names to delete",true,"Cancel,Delete") into the Selection
If line 1 of theSelection is "Cancel" then exit mouseUp

Repeat with i=the number of lines of theSelection down to 2

Delete line (item 2 of line i of theSelection) of me

End repeat

End mouseUp

1. The ~ means continue this HyperCard line on a new line.

2. You may omit the ~ and type the characters on the two lines entirely on one line.

3. Get the ~ by typing Option Return.

4. Generally 'The Target' is better than 'me', as it is more general.

The first item in the brackets or the first parameter is the name of the container holding the list or be a list; the second parameter is what is separating the members of the list, and the third parameter is the prompt or the message to be displayed. The 'true' parameter means that you want the user to be able to multi-select using the shift and command keys. 'False' would mean the user could select

one only line. The last parameter is a list of up to four button names. For a more complete description, read the ShowList card in the Power Tools stack.

A value is returned as follows: Line 1 contains the name of the button which was clicked. Line 2 and subsequent lines each contain two items, the text selected and the line

number of the selected text. For example:

Cancel

Joe,2

Terry,4

Ed,9

Questions

How would you handle text which contains commas?

Why is the count from the number of lines down to 2?

Try the Search XFCN out for yourself.

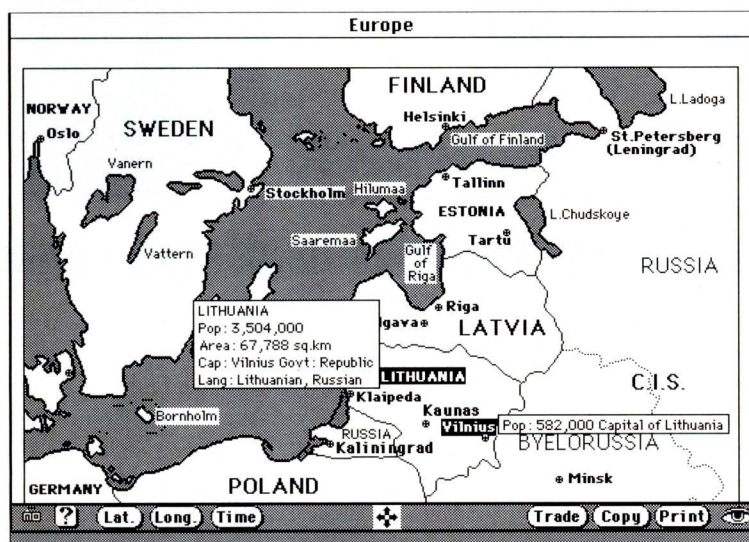
Have a good look at the Power Tools stack especially the Picture XCMD, the Palette Maker and the Search Container XFCN.

Good luck with your stacks. **AM**

There is an active HyperCard in Education users' group. If you're interested contact Leon Guss at Apple on 03 686 1233. Most user groups also include HyperCard groups. If you're interested, contact your nearest user group.

EDUCATION

Worldly updates from Broderbund, MacMaps



The rapidly changing political situation in post-Cold War Europe gives mapping programs such as MacMaps (pictured) more than enough reason for constant updates. There are for example 18 new countries in the latest version of MacGlobe.

Many in the Mac community were wondering how programs such as MacMaps and MacGlobe (recently acquired by Broderbund) would cope with the massive changes in East Europe.

The answer is, quite well following the arrival of MacGlobe 1.3, and a series of updates to the locally-produced MacMaps.

MacGlobe 1.3 features a database updated to include changes that have occurred over the past two years in Europe and Asia. According to Broderbund, MacGlobe 1.3 fully accommodates the breakdown of the USSR into 17 constituent countries as well as the breakdown of Czechoslovakia. One area that was not changed was Yugoslavia because it is still unclear what will be the ultimate result.

All in all there are 18 new countries represented in the program. As before, the program will show a profile of each country including maps, graphics, and a collection of statistics. The program will also show each country's flag and will allow the user to play that country's national anthem.

The data for MacGlobe 1.3 was compiled from such sources as the *CIA World Factbook* and the *World Bank Atlas*. Data from individual countries, or groups of countries, can be compared against similar data from other countries or groups in various graphical formats. All of the maps and graphics can be exported to any existing DTP, word-processor, or graphics package.

MacMaps Comprehensive World Atlas is being constantly updated, according to its distributor, Dataworks. It currently includes 276 maps, and as always, MacMaps emphasises Australian content with detailed maps of each of Australia's states and territories. There are other products in the MacMaps series, which all allow statistical, geographical, economic and historical data at the touch of a button.

MacMaps Comprehensive Atlas sells for \$189, while MacGlobe 1.3 retails at \$109.95. For further information about MacGlobe, contact Dataflow on 02 310 2020, while details about MacMaps can be obtained from Dataworks on 03 764 8344.

School computer market

Schools wishing to raise money may want to follow the lead of a Sydney high school. Muirfield High School has begun holding a Sunday computer market on the grounds of a local shopping complex in Sydney's northwest. The computer market, comprised of about 10 stalls at the Westfield shopping centre, was started by the school to help raise funds, and is now so successful it is one of the main fund-raisers for the school.

On offer are goods and services ranging from software and computer equipment through to technical advice. The stalls are hired, setup, and administered by parents of students, and they provide a relatively cheap alternative to the vendors for high exposure and a good location.

Computer rentals

Nineteen computer makers have set up a joint venture firm for personal computer rentals in Tokyo. The new firm will rent PCs to public schools in Japan.

Almost all the major computer firms — including Apple, IBM, Compaq, Fujitsu, and Digital Equipment — have participated in this joint venture.

The joint venture firm is called Japan Educational Data Equipment Corporation and will purchase personal computers from the makers, and then lease them to schools. The schools can keep them after a couple of years. The firm expects to rent 50,000 to 60,000 units of the personal computers to start.

Multimedia lesson tool

Digital Imaging Associates (DIA) has announced Peak, a multimedia authoring system for teachers who want to develop self-paced, customised classroom learning tools for the Macintosh.

Peak is an acronym for personal educational authoring kit and the software is a HyperCard application geared toward assembling colour images, text, narration, and sound effects, DIA said.

The company says the applications for Peak are unlimited, and says the software has already been used to develop 'bloodless' biology dissection lessons for high school students.

A self-paced guided tour on an included compact disc (CD) is offered with the Peak software. As a separate product, DIA is also offering four CDs each containing 500-700 digital images that can be used with Peak to develop lessons.

A local distributor has yet to be appointed. Contact DIA in the US on 214 437 9095 or fax 214 437 2993 for more details.

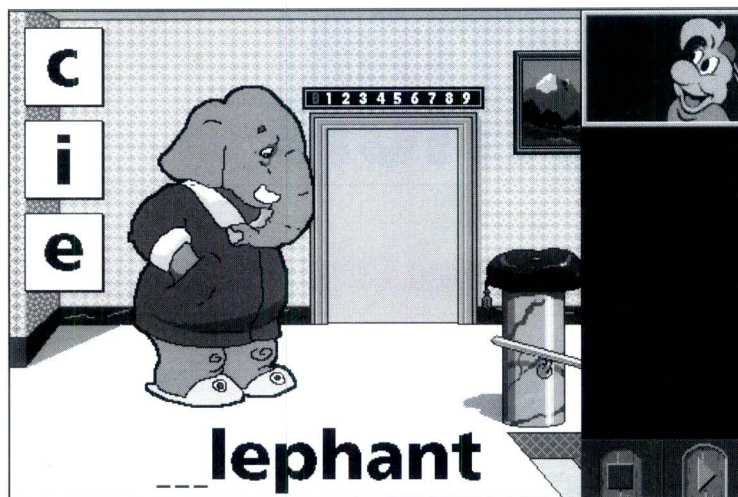
Apple UK targets education

Apple UK has announced an ambitious sales campaign targeting students and their lecturers in higher education. The aim is to encourage more educational users of the Macintosh, pushing market penetration in the educational field to the same levels that the company enjoys in the US.

According to Apple, the 'Dedication to Education' campaign involves 39 authorised educational resellers, who are actively promoting the campaign.

The mainstay of Apple's argument in favour of the Mac is the plethora of applications available in the educational marketplace. According to Apple, there are more than 3500 applications available.

It is encouraging its resellers to hold small demos for lecturers on the benefits of the Mac over the PC, and offer short-term loans of hardware to educational staff to win them over.



Multimedia encourages beginning readers

Warner New Media says it has started shipping a multimedia program for the Macintosh that incorporates music, sound effects, drawings, and animation to help children learn to read. Word Tales was created by The Discovery Software Company and focuses on getting children aged four to seven years to identify initial letters of simple words. Correct answers are rewarded with arcade games when children have correctly identified several words. Warner says children are only rewarded for success, and never penalised for mistakes.

Two versions of the program are available, a compact disc (CD) version for \$99.95 and a floppy disk version for \$79.95. Either version requires a Macintosh LC or II-series computer with a colour monitor, 2.2 Mbytes of memory, and System Software 6.0.7 or later. The CD version CD-ROM drive while the floppy disk version needs at least 10.4 Mbytes of free hard disk space.

For more details, contact Firmware Design on 047 217 211.

Getting motivated about road safety

A locally-developed multimedia program is to be installed in all Victorian schools in a bid to increase teenage awareness of safety issues. The Motorvation system is expected to be installed in Victorian schools over the next two years at an approximate cost of \$8 million.

The program has undergone a \$500,000 pilot test, and has proved so successful in Melbourne schools that students are arriving at school an hour early to use the system. Specifically targeted at the 14-16 age group, the system takes the student on a seven-stage 'tour' of Victoria, with various road and weather conditions, as well as safety factors, needed to be taken into consideration.

The system was a collaborative project by the Transport Accident Commission and VicRoads with programming by the

Computer Aided Learning Center of Victoria's University of Technology. Full-screen motion video, computer graphics and audio, laser light pens and bar coding for answering multiple choice questions, and touch screen technology, as well as a large amount of research with the target audience, has seen the program take on aspects of virtual reality.

"The research soon told us we had to engage and excite users and that it was time to take a '90s approach by embracing technology which would enthuse everybody. Books and brochures on road safety simply don't have the same pull," said Anne Randall, TAC's community programs manager. "I think we have found the right mix — text, graphics, video and sport — it's just a matter of fine-tuning it now," Randall went on to say.

KIDS' STUFF

Choosing educational software for the home

So you've decided the time has come to let junior touch your most precious toy — your Mac. Past the stage of trying to hold all the keys down at once, they now know not to stick their Vitawheat in the disk drive. But what software should they play with?

By Anne Glover



They've stopped turning the power point on and off while you try to work, and have sorted your disks into neat colour categories — so you can't find a thing. Still, you've decided the time is right to let them loose on your Mac. Your next step is to purchase some suitable software for their use. What follows are a few thoughts to keep in mind when selecting educational software for the little darlings.

Make it enjoyable

For use in the home, the product needs to be fairly enjoyable to use. Products that are fun, such as those in the edu-tainment field, are ideal. After all, the software will have a lot of competition, not only from other software programs but from TV, reading, riding bikes and playing in general. None of us wants to spend \$50–\$100 or more on a new program to see it gathering dust on the shelves. For the program to achieve what you hoped (and to meet the objectives of the developers) it needs to be used and used a lot.

Look inside the box

Don't pay too much attention to the claims made on the box which are unlikely to indicate the program's faults. Even 'reviews' on the back can include quotes taken out of context. If any screen shots of the program appear on the back, take a close look as they may give you some idea of the program. Information regarding the range and type of activities will also give you a more realistic idea.

Take all the vague claims about what the program will do for your child with a big grain of salt. Reviews in magazines such as this will give you a better idea, but always keep in mind your child's needs. What is ideal for one child is not necessarily suitable for another.

A range of levels

Try to select programs that have a range of difficulty levels or are structured so the child doesn't grow out of the program quickly. Software that features a number of different activities across a wide age range represents better value for money and will keep more kids in the family happy.

Focus on the child

The material should be child-centred, with the child making the decisions and selecting options.

Easy control

The program should be set up so the child can change from one activity to the next quickly and easily. Even pre-readers should be able to move like the wind after a bit of practice. If the child cannot take control when they wish, one of the great opportunities of educational software is being lost.

Extending the child

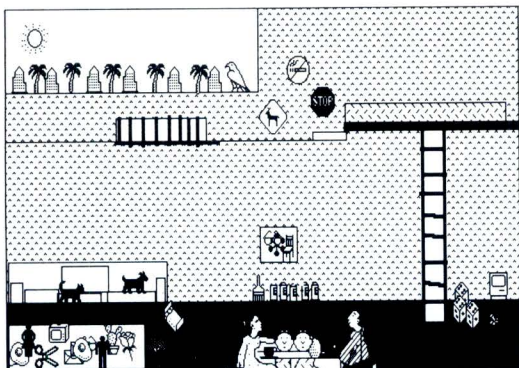
Determine if the software will extend the child and not just follow their progress.

The need to be creative

Look for programs that encourage creativity rather than rigidity of thought and action.

Longevity

Ensure that the program can still be used after the child reaches a particular goal.



Demonstrations

Some shops will demonstrate a program so make all your purchases there. Only by seeing the program run can you get a real feel for it. You should then determine if the program is easy to operate, that the language is appropriate, the age range correct and the materials right for your child.

Easy listening

If it's a talking program, see if the voice can be understood by your child, and that it doesn't frighten them.

Individual needs

While looking at the characteristics of the program keep in mind the individual needs of your child or children. Perhaps you have a child that will only read the back of cereal boxes or one that won't ever sit still long enough to complete a set task. Look for software that will address these specific needs. Also keep in mind that every child needs to be

literate, articulate and numerate. There are plenty of programs that try to address these needs, but some will suit your child better than others.

No raspberries

Some little people have very fragile self-esteem, and any program that makes rude noises every time they make a mistake is not going to help that child much at all. Some kids will need a soft and gentle approach, others will need a wild and crazy approach to keep their interest up.

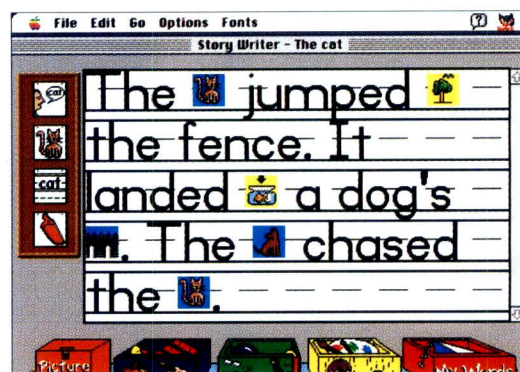
Complementary copies

Attempt to complement your existing software library.

Be prepared

Get all the boring bits out of the way before you sit the child down at the computer. Back up the disks, install the program and do all the work before the child is ready to play. **EW**

If you've an educational program you would like MacNews to review, or simply a question regarding educational software, you can contact Anne Glover at P.O. Box 786, Riverwood, NSW 2210.



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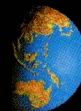
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Christmas gifts for **MAC KIDS**

The top 10 educational programs for the young

By Anne Glover

I've chosen the following programs on the basis of their suitability for use in the home. To make it into the list, each product had to be enticing to use and had to have a viable educational component.

For the very youngest children, I cannot go past **The Playroom**.

This one is ideal for those aged from two to four years. It is extremely easy to use, has a variety of activities and is a lot of fun. The child will still be able to use it as they approach five or six years of age. It is educational, using letters, basic reading, counting, simple addition and subtraction and an introduction to time. All material is presented in a very relaxed manner. The program is set up as a 'playroom' with numerous games the child can select at will. It also allows for a bit of creativity and is definitely child-centred.

Dinosaur

Discovery Kit, known as 'Zug' in our household, is a great program for use in the home with children aged from three to five. It is easy to use and contains enough variety to help the prereader become interested in words and sentences. Children build stories

by selecting sentences about 'Zug' and other topics. They can also play a Concentration-style game or even colour some dinosaurs.

For those that are a little bit older and already beginning to write, **The Puzzle Storybook** is a nice one. Those aged from four to six can create both stories and pictures very simply. If they wish they can also turn their picture into a jigsaw puzzle as well as saving or printing their material.

Children aged from four to seven that don't have a decent paint program will no doubt enjoy **Kid's Pix** and **Kid's Pix Companion**.

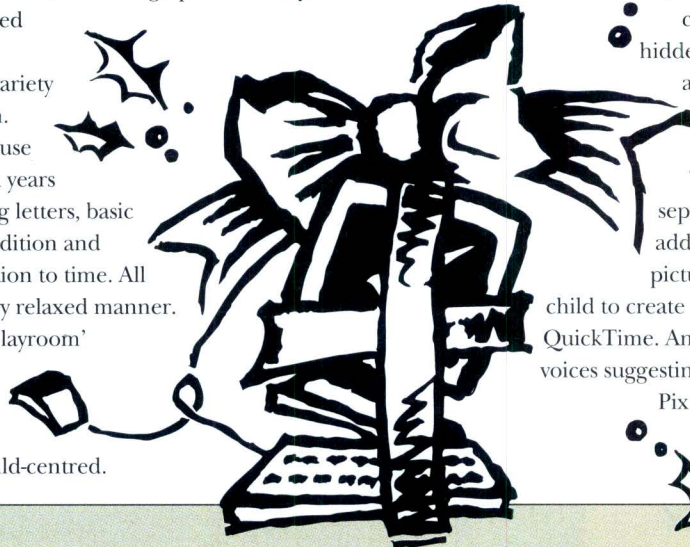
These are a whole lot more than just painting programs. They have heaps of coloured stamps, a talking alphabet, hidden pictures and sound effects to boot, as well as all the standard computer painting features. You will need 2 Mbytes of RAM for this one.

The Companion, purchased separately, goes a few steps further. In addition to more stamps plus some pictures to colour, this one allows the child to create a mini-picture show using QuickTime. Another useful feature is recorded voices suggesting some crazy drawings to create. Kids' Pix has stood the test of time in many households. It does suit a wide age range and allows the child's

creativity to run wild. By the way you do need 'Kids' Pix' to run the Companion.

A program with a range of activities for children in the four to six age range is **KidsTime**. (It gets confusing with these products having such similar names.)

KidsTime is not quite so easy to use and it does have some annoying features, but all up it is still a very good product for use in the home. It combines a basic music program where the child can listen to some little nursery rhymes or play their melodies with a cute word-processor that includes both letters and pictures. It has a matching game allowing the child to become familiar with words, shapes, letters and pictures. It has plenty of variety



SANTA'S TOP 10 (+1)

The Playroom (\$89.95); **Dinosaur Discovery Kit** (\$49.95), **The Puzzle Storybook** (\$59.95); **Kids' Pix** (\$94.95); **Kids' Pix Companion** (\$64.95); **KidsTime** (\$84.95); **Monsters and Make Believe** (\$69.95); **Outnumbered** (\$94.95); **Just Grandma and Me** (\$89.95); and **Kids' Works II** (\$89.95) are all distributed by Dataflow, 15 Merton St, Zetland, NSW 2017 (Ph 02 310 2020; Fax 02 319 2676). A **Silly Noisy House** (\$110) is distributed by Firmware Design, 28 Coombes Drive, Penrith, NSW 2750 (Ph 047 21 7211; Fax 047 21 7215). **Albert's House** (\$85) is distributed by Dataworks, 1 Mersey Close, Rowville, Vic 3178 (Ph 03 764 8344; Fax 03 763 2089).

and is a program that will grow with the child. This one even runs on a Classic.

Another neat way to encourage the kids to read and write is to let them create their own cartoon stories. Such a program needs to be very easy to use, and many are not. One that is worth a look is **Monsters and Make Believe**, which allows you or the kids to create great stories which can be read over and over again.

Outnumbered is one from the 'Super Solvers' series. Let's hope more of this excellent series comes out in Mac format soon. Outnumbered will keep your seven- to 10-year-old happily entertained as they inadvertently do some math along the way. This one uses not only straight sums, but word problems, charts and graphs as well. However, best of all it is fun.

Albert's House is really designed for use in the classroom, however it is still one of my favourite kids programs in any situation. The whole family will enjoy searching for Albert and

taking turns to hide him in all sorts of silly places. Being a bit different, it complements many existing programs. Children aged from four to seven will enjoy playing with Albert.

For those with a CD-ROM drive, **Just Grandma and Me** is superb. Children from three to seven will love it. This is an animated story book that is bound to enchant all that come within an arm's length. It is simple to use and combines a silly sense of humour with an educational product.

A Silly Noisy House is a cute CD-ROM disc for the three to fives to explore. Enter the house of the bears and see what delights await you. Explore their bedroom, the bathroom and the kitchen to become a part of this household, even go to a birthday party.

For reading, writing and drawing all in one package, take a

look at **Kids' Works II**. I hesitated for a long time before including this program. It has a number of problems, notably a long waiting time to call up icons and a reading voice that is hard for kids to understand. However, it is a very useful program for children aged from four to seven with no other software. It is not as simple to use as some of the other programs listed here, but is a comprehensive resource all on its own. I've decided to mention it, but not count it in my top ten. **MM**



The Playroom, an ideal learning program for children aged 2-4 years.

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BUSINESS

Imaging fax

First there was Group 3, and now there's Group 4, but in 1993 we'll start to see implementations of JBIG, an even stronger fax and imaging standard. That's according to the Joint Bi-level Image Experts Group (JBIG), the standards organisation formed to establish a standard that will deliver cleaner copy and reduce the disk space that documents demand.

Although the main thrust of the new protocol is toward halftone or dithered images, JBIG also creates significant improvements in the clarity and disk space consumption of text and line drawings, according to a JBIG spokesperson.

Halftone and dithered images will be compressed at rates two to 30 times higher than Group 4 provides. Compression of computer-generated text will be up to five times better, while scanned text and line drawings will undergo enhancements of 10 to 50 per cent.

Telecom chases debtors

Telecom has adopted an unusual sales technique for its phone directory, suggesting it an ideal way to find missing debtors. Telecom's Electronic White Pages is available online via the subscriber's mainframe, minicomputer, or PC network. Telecom suggest users compare their debtor information against its daily-updated national phone listings, to: "provide matches to your search, shortening the process of locating people to just seconds."

Great Plains puts accounting in the picture

Great Plains Software has announced Dynamics, a modular, network-ready accounting program. Dynamics gives the customer a choice of two client/server file managers, Btrieve or c-tree. The c-tree server and LAN Manager give the user simultaneous access to data across Windows and Mac platforms on a single network server.

Great Plains said that underlying the foundation of Dynamics is Dexterity, a graphical cross-platform development system which uses object-oriented programming techniques. Dexterity uses scripts to perform procedures common to both Dynamics and third-party applications, and it's portable between Windows and the Macintosh.

Dynamics also provides a set of customisation tools which allow data screens to be modified, write applications outside the Dexterity environment to write applications that interact with the Dynamics data files, and design screens and reports.

Other features include account numbers up to 45 alphanumeric characters, multi-currency capabilities, statistical or unit account capabilities, WYSIWYG (what you see is what you get) financial report

generation, an on-screen audit trail, and modifiable reports and screens. User-definable, editable online documentation is also available.

Dynamics modules will be generally available in the first quarter of 1993 at an anticipated per module price of about \$750.

Contact Great Plains on 02 415 2125 or 02 417 2722 for further details.

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000-6400-00		\$133.98
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Vehicle Insurance		\$1,270.83
Liability Insurance		
		Balance \$1,974.31

Extend is remodelled from the ground up

Newly released upgrades to the simulation modelling packages Extend and Extend+Manufacturing have been redesigned "from the ground up", according to local distributor PICA Software.

Extend allows a user to create a model of an exact situation, test its results and compare various 'what if ...' scenarios to simulate or validate a proposed theory, process, procedure, or production situation.

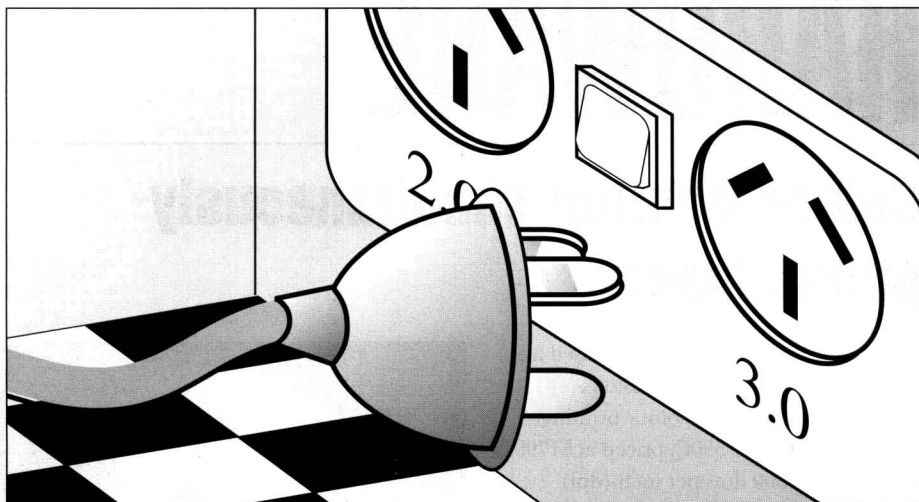
"Users can model discrete event systems such as process control, materials handling, service industries, banks, networks, manufacturing, information processing, distribution systems, transportation and

numerous other applications," said Dr Brent Groves, PICA's Director of Technical Visualisation Projects.

Groves described the Extend+Manufacturing 2.0 package as a complete toolkit for building complex discrete event models. "It combines the basic Extend package with an additional manual and library created for operations research, industrial engineering and manufacturing analysis," he added.

Extend and Extend+Manufacturing are available at \$1290 RRP and \$1980 RRP respectively from distributor PICA Software (03 326 5255). Demo disks of both programs are also available free of charge.

Microsoft changes PowerPoint



Microsoft says it is now shipping a major upgrade of its presentation graphics program PowerPoint for the Macintosh.

New features in version 3.0 include an outline view that allows users to create and work with the content of their presentation as an outline in a WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get) format. Outlining provides full text formatting including font size and style.

Microsoft says it has made drawing easier with a Shape Tool that offers a palette of 24 adjustable shapes and a freeform tool. View size can be adjusted from 25 per cent to 400 per cent, and more than 500 pieces of colour clip art are included. The graphing tools are the same ones included in Microsoft Word, including 3D graphing and

84 pre-designed graph types. Graphs can be rotated, and will automatically pick up the colour scheme selected for the overall presentation.

PowerPoint 3.0 also supports the use of QuickTime's video and sound features, and there's a special runtime version of PowerPoint, allowing presentations to be run without the full PowerPoint program being loaded. PowerPoint Mac files can now be shared with PowerPoint 3.0 for Windows users, since the same file format is used for both versions of the program.

Recommended retail price for PowerPoint 3.0 for the Mac is \$755. Multi-Licence Packs are available for \$600 RRP.

Contact Merisel on 02 882 8888 for more information.

WordPerfect Office upgrade due

WordPerfect claims it will release an upgrade version of WordPerfect Office for the Macintosh during the first quarter of 1993.

According to reports, the company has made some major enhancements to the e-mail component of version 4.0 of Office, which also includes scheduling, and calendaring features, all wrapped in a single application.

Office 4.0's functions will all share a common database, allowing users to schedule to-do tasks with other users just like they send an e-mail message. Users will also be able to send messages to other mail systems, with the Office 4.0 gateways converting the message for the appropriate system. Even if you don't have a computer on your desk but there's a network printer nearby, you'll be able to get mail. Office 4.0 can be directed to associate you with a printer on the network and send your mail to that printer.

Local pricing has yet to be announced, but current pricing is \$215 for a single user pack, \$715 for a five pack, and \$2170 for a 20 pack. WordPerfect Office is distributed by Mitsui Computer (02 452 0452).

Swinburne enrolls Cray

Cray Research and Melbourne's Swinburne College have joined forces to establish the Australian Computational Research Collaboratory (ACRC). The ACRC is aimed at increasing the use and awareness of supercomputers by Australian research bodies, industry, and business.

Under the terms of the agreement between Swinburne and Cray, Cray will provide access to a wide range of large machines for research and application work. Professor Murray Gillin, ACRC spokesman, said, "The collaboratory will provide business and industry with the opportunity to explore and exploit developments in high performance computing within their operations. Areas will include computational fluid dynamics, structural analysis, finite element analysis, and performance and process evaluation."

Good vibes

A local product is predicted to earn its developers a million dollars worth of export business within a year of its launch.

Last December Vibro-Acoustic Sciences announced AutoSEA, a specialist acoustic software product for the Mac. AutoSEA simulates the structural acoustic behaviour of a wide range of products, allowing engineers to do simulations on noise and vibration properties without the need to build a prototype.

AutoSEA has since been purchased by companies such as MacDonnell Douglas, NASA, Ford Motors, Boeing and Hughes/GM (General Motors). According to Vibro-Acoustic's general manager Paul Bremner, Apple Australia provided assistance to the company in developing its export market and was important to the company's success. "It is difficult for Australian companies to go it alone," he said. "The combination of technical and marketing assistance (from Apple) has made all the difference."

HARDWARE

The drive with the MR head

Seagate Technology has shipped the first hard disk drive with magnetoresistive (MR) heads to an OEM (original equipment manufacturer) for technical evaluation.

According to a Seagate spokesperson, magnetoresistive head technology increases the hard disk's capacity.

"Essentially, it allows us to write more bits per square inch onto the disk surface and read those more accurately," she said.

"Magnetoresistive heads are an evolutionary step [from thin film heads] that allow us to fly the heads closer to the media without damaging it. The closer you can fly, the more regularity you can pick up in terms of the reading of the data."

Low cost colour from Star

Star Micronics has announced the release of a nine-pin colour dot-matrix printer, the Star LC with a retail price of just \$549.

The printer is able to print in six colours or black using a Star colour ribbon, and has an optional long-life black ribbon for use in normal long-run print jobs. The Star LC-100CL features 10 resident fonts, and print speed up to 180 characters a second (in draft mode). Bit-image graphics can be printed in up to 144 by 240dpi.

Contact Star Micronics on 02 748 4300 for further details.

Colour printer simultaneously prints black

Hewlett-Packard (HP) has released a new laser-quality printer that allows simultaneous black and colour printing. The HP DeskWriter 550C, priced at \$1799 inc tax, offers 300 dots per inch (dpi) resolution and uses HP's thermal ink jet technology, the company said.

Two print cartridges held simultaneously allow for the printing of true black and colour on the same page, HP maintains. Dual cartridges also mean printing of a text and colour page is up to four times faster with a speed of three pages per minute for text and four to seven pages per minute for colour and text. Actual print speed depends on the application and the density of the ink, according to HP.

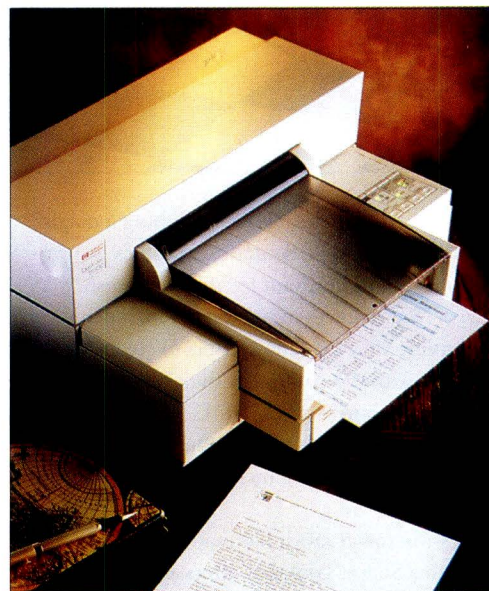
Up to 16 million colours can be printed, depending on the software used, by dithering the three process-colour inks (cyan, magenta, yellow) in the print cartridge. A colour matching system is offered to match the colours on screen to the colours printed.

The HP DeskWriter 550C comes with a QuickDraw software driver that uses Intellifont font-scaling technology and allows for screen colours to match printed colours, HP said.

The printer comes with the same 35 scalable fonts found in the Apple Personal Laserwriter NT and NTR printers. Times, Helvetica, Courier, Symbol, ITC Avante Garde Gothic, ITC Bookman, New Century Schoolbook, Palatino, ITC Zapf Chancery, and ITC Zapf Dingbats are the fonts included, the company said.

Colour printing of ASCII text is a new feature in the HP Deskjet 550C, HP said.

The company also said the printer allows printing on wider paper than traditionally possible including envelopes and executive



size (7.25-inch by 10.5-inch, or 184mm by 266mm) paper. Automatic envelope feeding, as well as automatic feed of letter, legal, A4 and executive paper sizes are accomplished via a new paper handling mechanism with a tray that will hold 100 sheets of paper. The tray will also hold 100 sheets of transparency film or 20 envelopes, HP said.

Coinciding with the new release, HP has lowered the price on its HP DeskWriter C printer from the former \$1799 list price to \$1290, effective now. HP offers a three year warranty on all DeskWriter printers mentioned.

HP has lead the industry for some time with its line of laser printers for the desktop printing market. The company has also just released a portable ink jet printer small enough to fit into a briefcase yet with a print resolution of 300 dpi (see page 16).

Contact InfoMagic on 02 930 3900 for further details.

Allaw adds to product line

Allaw Technologies has announced distribution agreements that see the former software-only distributor bolstering its catalogue of hardware products. With the closure of Image Products, Allaw recently became the sole local distributor for Microtek scanners. The company has now announced its appointment as local distributor for the GCC Technologies range of printers.

Highlights of the GCC printer range include the WriteMove II, a portable printer for the PowerBook; the WideWriter 360, a wide-format (C-size) printer; and the ColorTone continuous-tone dye sublimation colour printer.

GCC's WriteMove II is a laser-quality plain paper printer capable of outputting at up to 360 x 360 dpi. It includes a Citizen PN-48 printer engine, weighs just over a kilo (with the battery included) and measures 29.7cm x 9cm x 5cm.

The WideWriter 360 features a 360 dpi Canon bubblejet inkjet engine and is primarily intended for outputting CAD and mechanical drawings. Unique features include the ability to print both unidirectionally and bidirectionally in the same job to improve performance while reducing jaggies. It can also skip vertical and horizontal white space in a job, so the print head doesn't have to travel all the way across the sheet with every pass.



GCC Technologies' products include the ColorTone continuous tone dye sublimation colour printer.

A 300 dpi dye-sublimation printer, the ColorTone is aimed at the desktop publishing market. With 16.7 million colours and 256 levels of grey, ColorTone comes with 16 Mbytes RAM as standard (expandable to 64 Mbytes), a 120 Mbyte internal hard disk, and 39 resident fonts. It is built around an AMD 29000 series RISC (reduced instruction set computing)-based processor and a PostScript-compatible interpreter from Phoenix Technologies, and runs over AppleTalk or EtherTalk networks.

Allaw Technologies (02 415 9711) has also announced its appointment as local distributor for Lotus Aline uninterruptible power supplies, and a line of NuBus expansion chassis from Second Wave. Prices on all the new product acquisitions have yet to be announced.

Label printing turns professional

Seiko has unveiled the Smart Label Printer (SLP) Professional, a compact multi-function label printer, that is more than twice as fast as its predecessor, the SLP Plus.

The SLP Pro can produce four different label sizes — larger shipping labels, and



labels for 3.5 inch floppy diskettes, as well as standard and expanded address labels. Two separate spools accommodate

the different sizes, each holding 250 labels which can incorporate text, barcodes, and graphics.

Two models are initially available, one for the Apple Macintosh, the other for IBM PCs and compatibles. The Macintosh version is operated via a Desk Accessory (DA) and the software includes a built-in database which allows you to store an unlimited number of label entries. Alternatively, Mac users can print directly from Claris' FileMaker Pro and can print graphics from a variety of drawing packages.

Distributed by The Portable Computer Systems Company (02 954 3411), the Smart Label Printer Pro is \$725 RRP.

1200 dpi flatbed scanner

Umax Technologies has released a new 1200 dpi colour flatbed model scanner, targeted at the colour prepress market. The UC 1200S scans 30 bits of colour data or 10 bits of grey-scale data per pixel.

The single-pass scanner incorporates a 2 Mbyte buffer that improves file handling and allows for faster scanning. Priced at \$6900 inc tax, it comes with Scan DA and monitor calibration software. Accessories include a high-end colour transparency adaptor (\$1566 inc tax) and document feeders for multiple page handling during OCR use.

For details, contact Computer Enterprises of Australia on 03 510 9040.

Envivio's adaptor for LC II

Envivio has released what it says is the first 16-bit graphics card for the Macintosh LC and LC II.

Quick 16 can handle over 32,000 colours on displays as large as 16-inches, with resolutions of up to 832 by 624. The program supports Apple monitors from 12-to-16 inches, the Radius Color Pivot, and most VGA-compatible displays.

Quick 16 operates in QuickTime's native 16-bit depth, for fast display of QuickTime movies, and processor intensive screen redraws are off-loaded from the CPU and done by Quick 16 for faster CPU performance. Envivio's Quick 16 is priced at \$895 RRP. Contact Mitsui (02 452 0452) for further details.

Design award for arrester

A locally manufactured device, the XL777PA Surge Arrester, was among recent recipients of an Australian Design Award. The Arrester protects anything containing electronics, including computers and hard drives, from damage due to unexpected and unavoidable surges of electricity. The Surge Arrester is available from electrical retailers at \$72.50 RRP. For further information, contact HPM Industries on 02 361 9999.

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LANGUAGES

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Serius Programmer	\$510
Serius Developer	\$756
Think C V5.0	\$357
Think Pascal V4.0	\$309

PRINTERS

INKJETS		EX	INC
HP DeskWriter		\$845	\$990
HP DeskWriter C		\$1140	\$1370
HP DeskWriter 550 C		\$1580	\$1895
GCC Write Move II		\$1115	\$1340
Cartridges		\$28	\$33

POSTSCRIPT		EX	INC
QMS 410- 300dpi		\$2410	\$2820
QMS 815- 600dpi MR		\$3950	\$4740
QMS 860- 600dpi A3		\$7135	\$8560
LZR 960 300dpi		\$3210	\$3850
LZR 965 600dpi		\$4470	\$5380
LZR 1560 400dpi A3		\$4980	\$5980
LaserMax		\$call	\$call

DOT MATRIX		EX	INC
Seikosha SP2000		\$360	\$432

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Adobe Streamline	\$286
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Aldus IntelliDraw	\$235
Canvas	\$475
MacDraw Pro	\$475
Painter	\$550
Sketcher	\$call
SuperPaint	\$222
ColourIt	\$320

IMAGE PROCESSING		EX	INC
Adobe Photoshop		\$1240	
(For Scanner)		\$700	
ColorStudio		\$1210	
ImageStudio		\$375	

ELECTRONIC PUBLISHING

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Big Thesaurus		\$158	
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FONTS			
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Radius Rocket 25MHz maths co		\$3115	
Radius Rocket 33MHz maths co		\$3945	
LC 512k VRAM		\$110	
LC Maths CoProcessor		\$207	
Radius Rocket Share		\$874	
Thunder Storm		\$1615	

SIMMS

		EX	INC
1Mb 80ns	\$call	\$call	
1Mb fx	\$call	\$call	
1Mb Classic board	\$82	\$98	
2Mb	\$100	\$120	
2Mb LC/Si	\$100	\$120	
4Mb	\$call	\$call	
4Mb fx	\$call	\$call	
16Mb Q900, 950	\$828	\$993	
2Mb Pbook	\$210	\$252	
4Mb Pb100	\$396	\$475	
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Microtek 6002S		\$1995	
(incl Photoshop)			
Sharp JX320		\$2190	
Umax UC630		\$1800	
Umax UC1200		\$5370	
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Grey Scale			
HP IIP & Wordscan		\$1595	
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Typist Hand Scanner		\$call	

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Maestro ZXR2400 inc Viatel		\$call	
Maestro ZXR2400 ex Viatel		\$call	
SmartModem M7F		\$1244	
AutoFaxModem 24 for Mac		\$320	
InFaxModem for Powerbook		\$320	
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Stuffit Spacesaver		\$85	
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Soft PC from		\$274	
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Norton/Sum		\$173	
Now Utilities 4.0		\$203	
Sum II		\$163	

HARD DISK MANAGEMENT		EX	INC
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Diskfit Pro		\$165	
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Fileguard		\$298	
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Renderman/ShowPlace	\$920
Renderman/Swivel 3D	\$1255
Virtus Walkthrough	\$690
Radius VideoVision (ex)	\$1462
Clarix CAD	\$854
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Sharp debuts new laser printers

Sharp has released its new JX-9600 series of laser printers, the JX-9600 and JX-9600PS, and introduced an enhanced version of the JX-9700.

Targeted at small business and home computer users, the JX-9600 series outputs at 8 page-per-minute (ppm) and ships with 1 Mbyte of RAM, upgradable to 9 Mbytes. Features include a compact 330 by 335 mm footprint, and two 250-sheet capacity paper trays, with AppleTalk an optional extra. Retail price for the JX-9600 is \$2799 inc tax; \$3799 for the PostScript model.

Designed for users in a shared network environment, the JX-9700E laser printer has a resolution of 300 dots per inch (dpi) and rated output of 16 ppm. It comes with a standard 250-sheet tray, while an optional 500-sheet tray can be added for a 750-sheet continuous printing operation. Other options

include an automatic 70-envelope feeder.

According to Sharp, the unit easily handles 15,000 pages per month, with a 600,000 sheet printer life. It comes with 1 Mbyte of RAM which can be upgraded to 9 Mbytes. PostScript is an optional extra for the JX-9700E which retails at \$4499 inc tax.

Sharp's new JX-9600 laser printer — 8ppm and a compact 330mm x 335mm footprint.



New colour LCDs

Sharp and Fujitsu have developed large liquid crystal colour displays for computers that produce quality images comparable with those produced by Braun tubes, the companies report.

Sharp has developed a 17-inch colour liquid crystal display (LCD), which is the largest in the world, according to Sharp. This VGA display has 1280 by 1024 pixels, is back-lit and can be connected to workstations. Sharp will release sample products this month in Japan and sales are due to start in June 1993. Meanwhile, Fujitsu will ship its 21-inch plasma display in January 1993. It has a 64-colour gradation, supports 260,000 colours, and has 640 by 480 pixels resolution. It is 3.2cm thick and weighs 4.8 kg.

The price for Fujitsu's plasma display is a whopping 900,000 yen (\$9555).

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A faster Finder



By Tony Ward

SPEEDYFINDER

Victor Tan from Sydney has produced SpeedyFinder7 version 1.5.4 which allows for much faster copying of files when using System 7, 7.0.1 or 7.1 Finder. When transferring large amounts of data over a floppy disk or network all other processing will stop, allowing the computer to get on with it. The trash can is quickly emptied but without the Backgrounder file (yours when you contribute the \$20 shareware fee) there's no indication of progress.

From the Control Panel, keys can be assigned so that you can immediately delete files in the trash can (even locked files). Floppy disk icons can be displayed in colour and can display the size of disk, whether the disk is locked and even if the disk is faulty.

When we 'Get Info' on an alias the normal Finder will act on the alias with the option to then find the original file and repeat the process. In SpeedyFinder, holding the option key down will immediately 'Get Info' and 'Find' the original file.

Documentation is good. Send in the shareware fee, although you will find the Backgrounder file is not essential. (You should send in shareware fees for the programs that you regularly use. If the authors are not encouraged they may not write any more PD.)

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

Club Mac, Sydney, has a collection of 1992 PD available on disks at \$7 each, and be grouped as Games, HyperCard, Utilities, Accessories etc. The set of 12 is only \$75 including postage (with a free Club•Mac•Disk thrown in). Mention that you saw the offer in MacNews and send to GPO Box 4523, Sydney, NSW, 2001.

Unless otherwise mentioned all of the above programs are on the BBS: MacConnection (02 907 9198 or 02 907

0355) and ClubMac (02 314 1322), both 4line v42bis Telefinder boards in Sydney, and will make their way to the other user groups and PD suppliers.

RENAME DELAY EDITOR!

For some, one of the annoying problems on upgrading to System 7 was the delay in renaming files. Rename Delay Editor! by Adam Stein of Edison, USA, (\$US10 shareware) allows you to modify the rename delay behaviour of the Finder. Installation instructions are given.

MAXAPPLEZOOM

Naoto Horii of Brussels, Belgium, has developed the useful MaxAppleZoom v1.43 (39 Kbytes) which allows those people with a 13" screen to increase their effective screen size by reducing the width of the black edges. Once again the documentation (57 Kbytes) is lengthy. The shareware fee is \$US25.

MYPAGESETUP


One of the great little PD items is MyPageSetup 1.3. Don Gilbert developed this 29 Kbyte application which allows you to set the preference for the page setup and printer dialogue boxes. Personally, I get sick of changing the paper size from US letter to A4. The tall adjusted size can be automatically set if you are using an Imagewriter (this brings the paper size to the same as the LaserWriter).

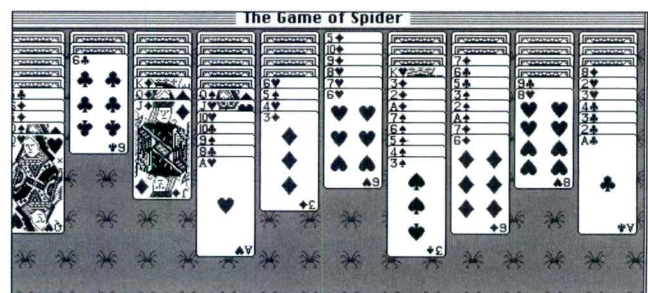
MOVIES IN THE DARK

If you like System 7's QuickTime extension and use After Dark as your screen saver, then Movies in the Dark 1.0 may be of interest. To use, it is just a

simple matter to drop the files into the 'After Dark files' folder in the System folder. Access is via the After Dark control panel. The program, including samples, is only 70 Kbytes in size and is freeware by Maurice Volaski, USA.

SPIDER

Spider 1.2 is a popular two-deck solitaire game which is challenging and fun to play. It takes a bit of practice to master the game. The cards are large with intricate designs, and are placed one under the other in descending order. All sizes/types of screen are supported. The level of difficulty is stated to be harder than the popular PD game Klondike. Rules, tips and shortcuts are all included within the program. It could easily become addictive. Some sample games are included to give some help with strategy. The 458 Kbyte program, \$US20 shareware, is by S. Weiss, USA. 



Send any new PD for review or comment to: PO Box 601, Wahroonga, NSW, 2076. Let me know your favourite PD and I will mention new versions if they have not already been mentioned.

NETWORKS

InfoMagic nets Octopus

Distributor InfoMagic has announced the local availability of netOctopus, a network management software product from MacVONK.

The product allows network administrators to provide system-wide software upgrades, inventories of software packages, and network troubleshooting.

According to MacVONK, netOctopus is the only all-in-one network management tool that enables network managers to control all networked Macintosh computers from their desktop. The product takes care of two main areas of network management, file maintenance and information gathering.

netOctopus is used to gather information on what is being run on the network. For instance, a network administrator may discover that some users



are running an obsolete version of a printer driver, or maybe a new upgrade to the company's virus detection and eradication software program arrives and needs to be installed on all of the machines.

netOctopus 1.1 is priced at \$995 for 10 users; \$1995 for 25 users and \$2995 for 50 users. Contact InfoMagic (02 930 3900) for more details.

Duos dock into Ethernet

Dayna Communications claims to have already solved the unique Ethernet connectivity challenges which face owners of Apple's new PowerBook Duo computers.

According to the company, DaynaPORT E/Z and DaynaPORT E/Z-T are the only Ethernet products on the market that offer thin, thick, and 10BASE-T Ethernet connectivity through the built-in Macintosh serial port. This is especially important with 'dockless' PowerBook Duo 210 and 230 notebook computers since they are equipped with only a single mini-DIN 8-pin serial port, a modem port, and a new 152-pin expansion slot.

Macintosh users who expand their PowerBook Duo capabilities with the Duo MiniDock can continue to use their DaynaPORT E/Z for Ethernet connectivity, or they may choose to use the DaynaPORT

SCSI/Link-3, which connects through the 30-pin SCSI interface found on the MiniDock.

DaynaPORT E/Z, DaynaPORT E/Z-T, DaynaPORT SCSI/Link-3, and DaynaPORT E/II-3, Ethernet connectors support a variety of protocols including Phase 1 and Phase 2 AppleTalk, TCP/IP, DECnet, OSI, and are compatible with AppleShare, NetWare, TOPS, and A/UX network operating systems. DaynaPORT Ethernet adapters for PowerBook Duo computers are available now in the following models: DaynaPORT E/Z (BNC, AUI; Serial Port) \$650; DaynaPORT E/Z-T (10BASE-T; Serial Port) \$650; DaynaPORT SCSI/Link-3 (BNC, AUI, 10BASE-T; SCSI Port — 30-pin) \$765; DaynaPORT E/II-3 (BNC, AUI, 10BASE-T; NuBus Slot) \$535.

Contact Conexus on 02 975 2799 for more details.

TCP/IP Ethernet access

Sonic Systems has released PowerBridge/TCP and SuperBridge/TCP, two DDP-IP gateways that allow LocalTalk Macs to access services on a TCP/IP Ethernet network. Like other products in the company's EtherBridge series, the new releases connect via a simple software INIT. PowerBridge (\$395) supports connection of one LocalTalk Mac and SuperBridge (\$535) supports connection of up to five LocalTalk Macs. For more details, contact Lidcam on 03 820 9077.

A pro grabs the mike

Hoping to appeal to networks using TCP/IP, Software Ventures, has begun shipping its new MicroPhone Pro for the Macintosh.

The company said that the new MP Telnet Tool, which is included in the package, allows users to communicate with any remote host that supports a TCP/IP network. The product also includes the FAXstf send and receive fax software from STF Technologies, which lets users send faxes direct from their Macintosh.

According to the company, FAXstf software allows for the creating and sending of fax documents from any standard Macintosh application, by simply printing the document.

MicroPhone Pro for the Macintosh has the local RRP of \$429. For more information, contact NetComm on 02 888 5533.

Quick meeting bundle

CE Software has announced with ON Technology that Meeting Maker, the Macintosh group scheduler, is now available in a bundle with CE's QuickMail, the leading electronic mail package for the Macintosh.

The companies say they will continue to examine ways to integrate the products. QuickMail is the leading Macintosh-based e-mail package with almost 500,000 users worldwide.

Meeting Maker helps users better manage their time by allowing them to pick, propose, and/or confirm meetings in one step from their computers. The heart of Meeting Maker is the ability to propose meetings to co-workers over a Macintosh network.

A five-user package of Meeting Maker is available in a bundle with QuickMail five, 10, 50 and 100 user packages. Retail prices are \$685, \$995, \$3920 and \$7320 respectively. For more details, contact Conexus on 02 975 2799.

Intelligent hubs here

Network Resources Corporation (NRC) has appointed Lidcam Technology as the Australian distributor for its range of intelligent Ethernet networking hubs. Intelligent hubs differ from standard 'dumb' hubs in that they provide a network administrator with the facility of analysing network traffic and errors as well as compiling statistics of network usage.

The NRC MultiGate hubs allow network management to take place from a Macintosh on the network. They combine the features of an intelligent hub and a learning/filtering bridge in a completely integrated package.

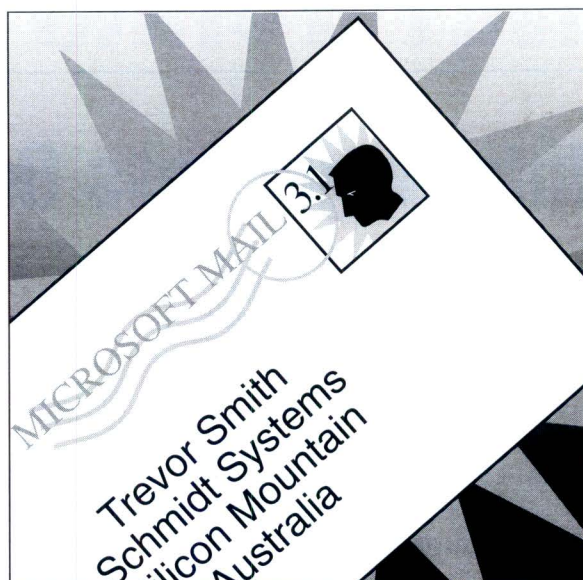
Configuration options include support for twisted-pair, thin-wire, or fibre-optic media. Various options include WAN support, routing software (TCP/IP) and high speed filtering circuitry for improved internetworking performance. Prices for the NRC hubs start at \$4500 (RRP, ex tax). Lidcam Technology (03 820 9077) has more details.

Microsoft ready to mail 3.1

Microsoft has upgraded its e-mail application Microsoft Mail. Mail for AppleTalk Networks, version 3.1, includes support for the company's Messaging Application Programming Interface (MAPI), enabling other applications to make use of Mail's delivery capabilities to distribute documents and information among users.

Version 3.1 also includes significant additions to the Mail server, among them global address lists and fault tolerant directory synchronisation. Global address lists allow users to address mail without having to know the server or gateway location of the recipient. Directory synchronisation ensures that when users are added, modified or removed from any Microsoft Mail server, those changes can be automatically relayed to other servers on the network.

The new version also support server-to-server connectivity over telephone lines and



remote log-in, giving Apple PowerBook users electronic mail access when and where they need.

Mail 3.1 is due for release in the first quarter of 1993. An upgrade price has yet to be determined, but current pricing for the product is \$600 RRP. For more information, contact distributor Merisel on 02 882 8888.

Shiva rolls out LanRover/E

When Shiva introduced its LanRover/L product a few months ago, a lot of interest and attention came from corporate network administrators and MIS department heads. The program solved a problem that they had — how to use Apple's Remote Access protocol to allow customers to connect to their network at the office and use it as though they were directly connected to it.

What potential customers told Shiva was that they would need more than one port into the device to which modems could be connected, and they would need it to support both Apple protocol and Novell NetWare. So, Shiva created the LanRover/E.

LanRover/E comes in two models; one supporting four external modem ports, the other eight external modem ports. It is available for NetWare and for AppleTalk

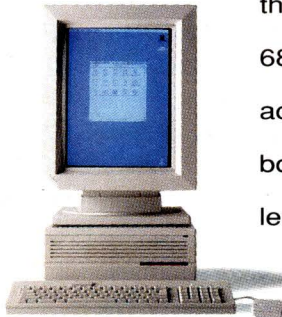
Remote Access. The whole device fits into a standard 19-inch rack. The device has connectors for either 10Base-T, thinwire, or thickwire Ethernet. For control and management, LanRover/E comes with Shiva's Net Manager software which allows configuration and management of the device from any Macintosh or PC anywhere on the network or via a remote modem.

There is a full set of security features on the product, also an activity log so that error conditions and other activities are tracked and recorded.

LanRover/E costs \$4650 ex tax for the four-port version (LanRover/4E) and \$6899 ex tax for the eight-port version (LanRover/8E). Contact Conexus on 02 975 2799 for more information.

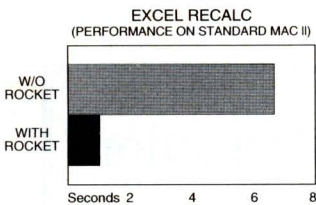
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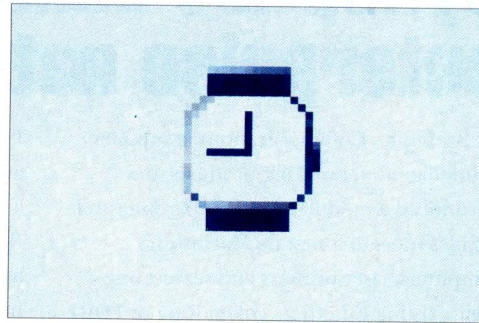
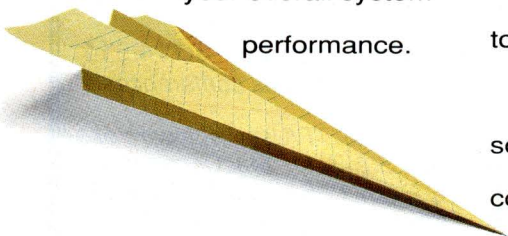
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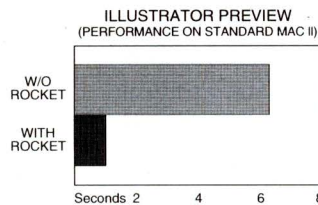


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Now consider the Rocket's compatibility features like the ability to simulate

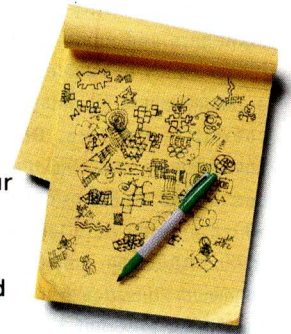
the 68030's cache mode or the ability to run either System 6 or System 7.

You'll enjoy all the system software, peripherals and network compatibility you have now.

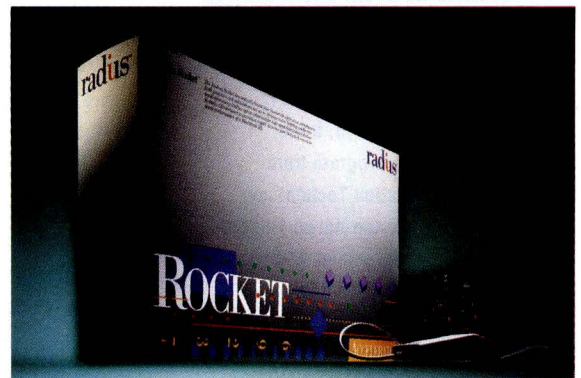


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NetMinder Ethernet 2.2

Neon Software has begun shipping version 2.2 of its network analyser NetMinder Ethernet. The new version includes support for all Sonic-based Ethernet interfaces, making the product available to run on virtually any current Macintosh with most currently available Ethernet adaptors.

Other key additions include protocol decoding capability giving network managers and administrators additional ability to troubleshoot network problems where Macintosh computers coexist in NetWare, DEC, and IP environments. Also included with the new release are Microsoft Excel macros which provide detailed analysis of traffic distribution, protocol types, and bandwidth utilisation over time.

NetMinder Ethernet 2.2 is priced at \$795. Contact NetComm on 02 888 5533 for more details.

Iomega distributes TransferPro

Iomega, best known for its removable media drives, has announced that it will become the first worldwide distributor of TransferPro, a file exchange software program from Digital Instrumentation Technology. TransferPro allows non-network users to transfer files between workstations and PCs, or workstations and Macintoshes. The program is available for Sun SPARCstation and Silicon Graphics Personal IRIS and IRIS Indigo workstations.

With TransferPro the user can copy and move files and directories, and initialise Macintosh and MS-DOS cartridges and disks. Directories can be created and moved, files can be renamed, and file contents can be browsed.

TransferPro is \$599 RRP. For further details, contact local distributor Sourceware on 02 427 7999.

SynOptics links Macs to enterprise networks

SynOptics Communications, a supplier of intelligent networking products, has introduced a modular AppleTalk router that enables users to integrate Macintosh computers, laser printers and servers into their existing Ethernet, Token Ring or FDDI networks.

The new LattisTalk Model 3394 AppleTalk Router combines patented PhoneNET unshielded twisted pair (UTP) technology from US-based Farallon, with multiprotocol routing functions to bring Macintoshes and peripherals under the umbrella of structured wiring systems.

The LattisTalk Model 3394 AppleTalk Router enables AppleTalk devices and UNIX hosts to exchange data. It combines multi-port repeater functions for linking LocalTalk devices over twisted pair wire with router functions for linking LocalTalk and Ethernet (EtherTalk) networks. Gateway functions allow Macintosh clients to access TCP/IP files, printers and host services.

The Model 3394 router has 16 modular RJ-11 ports, each capable of supporting up to four devices, for a total of 64 devices per router. It offers a number of innovative capabilities including full AppleTalk routing for supporting networks of hundreds of zones, including zone hiding for controlling access to AppleTalk resources.

Other features include IP Gateway functions that enable Macintosh users to access file, printer and host services on UNIX systems (such as the Model 3040 Network Control Engine module processor). IP tunnelling for linking distant Apple networks through established IP internetworks is also built-in.

Designed for use in the SynOptics LattisNet System 3000 intelligent hub, the Model 3394 router enhances the System 3000 by providing a structured LocalTalk wiring solution to the extensive Ethernet, Token Ring and Fiber Distributed Data

Interface (FDDI) capabilities already available.

Management for SynOptics' AppleTalk Router can be handled through SNMP agents and an easy-to-use Telnet menu interface or from SynOptics' UNIX or DOS network management consoles. The unit also features flash EPROM for easy software upgrades.

In addition the new router is compatible with the SynOptics LattisNet Expanded View graphical application which can monitor all modules in a System 3000 network. The SynOptics Model 3394 AppleTalk Router is locally priced at \$6540 ex tax. For further details, contact distributor Com Tech Communications on 02 317 3088.

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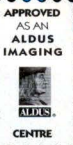
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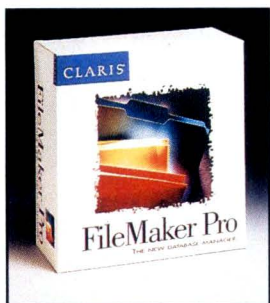
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Filemaker Pro 2.0

Power to the people



The latest version of FileMaker Pro incorporates over 50 new and improved features. But Claris seems to have mastered the art of taking a good product and making it better without increasing its complexity.

By Peter Trist

The good news for FileMaker Pro owners who upgrade to version 2.0 is that, despite the addition of over 50 new and improved features, they won't have to relearn to use the program. And apart from a Windows-influenced 3D look to the interface (which I like) there is little to visually differentiate the old and the new.

The 3D interface look can be partially attributed to the fact that FileMaker Pro 2.0 is now also available for Windows. Visually it is difficult to tell the Mac version from its PC counterpart (when comparing them on screens of similar resolution). Data between the two versions is fully interchangeable and, when the two versions co-exist on the same network, it is possible to open a Windows database on a Mac and vice versa.

Behind the scenes, however, major changes have taken place that improve the useability of the program ten-fold.

Once setup, a typical user will find the day-to-day operation of the database easier. Keyboard support is substantially improved, standard arrow key combinations allow the user to navigate through text fields. Tabbing will now get you into fields formatted as check boxes, radio buttons, and others. Scrolling text fields are now supported along with enhanced text-formatting features

including superscript and subscript.

Other System 7 features include balloon help, and QuickTime support. It is possible to include QuickTime movies in a picture or sound field and play them back from within the database. Only the path to the 'movie' is recorded — the actual file remains in its original position, in this way keeping the actual size of the database to a minimum while keeping performance to the maximum.

Programming improvements

For those of a programming bent, the most useful new feature is a substantially enhanced scripting facility, including a macro-like recorder that allows you to perform/record actions for later playback.

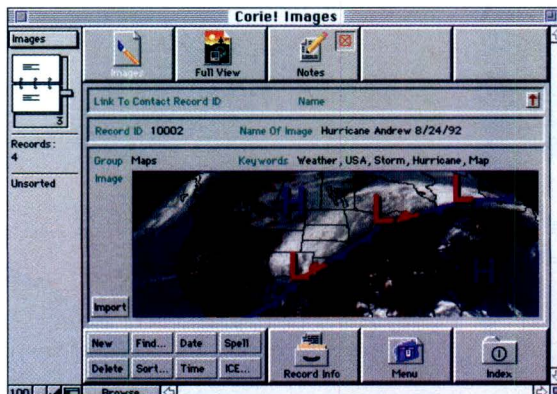
The ScriptMaker script editor is a vast improvement on the old simplistic method of selecting scripts by button. A new window includes a scrolling area containing a list of script commands. Moving these commands into the script area brings up check boxes, radio buttons and pop-up menus that enable you to set the parameters for the script commands.

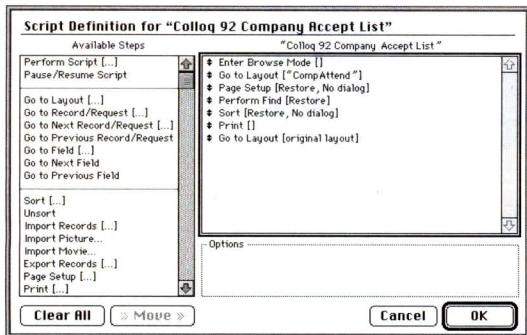
ScriptMaker offers extensive support for Apple Events. Using Apple Events, the programmer can open and control other applications such as Claris Resolve, Microsoft Excel, and Userland Frontier,

performing functions that FileMaker, by itself, is not capable of executing.

The new Preferences dialogue allows a certain script to be performed as soon as a file is opened. This might include immediately modifying the database in some way; for instance, switching to a user-preferred layout by making use of the 'Paste Current User Script'

Showing its new cross platform affiliations, Filemaker Pro 2.0 sports a 3D Windows-style interface. The example shown is from the popular US CORIE database series, available on CompuServe.





The script definition section of ScriptMaker showing a field Script from a converted (to version 2.0) database.

command. This command obtains the name of the current user as stored in the System 7 Sharing Setup control panel.

Publish, but don't Subscribe

Although version 2.0 does not support System 7's Subscribe feature it supports Publish in an innovative manner. Exporting data to a tab-delimited file (the Edition) allows other applications such as a word-processor easy access to FileMaker Pro data. The Edition file is only updated when the file is re-exported. As when

exporting in the normal manner, the user has the option of selecting which fields are exported to the tab-delimited file.

Quick and dirty exports

FileMaker Pro has a new 'quick and dirty' approach to exporting data from a particular record, or browsed series of records. If no field is selected it is possible to copy the entire record

to the clipboard. Holding down the Option key copies the 'browsed' records.

FileMaker Pro's strong point has always been the ease with which a database can be created from scratch, or an existing database modified. Enhancements to the Layout capabilities in version 2.0 improve the report capabilities substantially. Layouts can now be re-ordered, enabling better internal organisation of the database.

As in earlier versions, FileMaker Pro is still by far the best construction tool for 'quick and dirty' databases. Creation of fields is very much freeform, and there is

THE VERDICT

THE GOOD: ScriptMaker and improved text-formatting, layout features and keyboard support have made a great product greater. Claris's efforts to retain ease of use while adding new features are to be applauded.

THE BAD: True relational capabilities have yet to be included in FileMaker Pro. Even so, as a day-to-day small- to medium-size office tool the program works as is most of the time.

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no need to sit and carefully plan out the exact length of each field before setting up the database. This freeform approach to database design substantially reduces the setup time of basic data gathering data bases. Refining the layouts adds time afterwards, but quite often a simple list is all that is required for a lot of day-to-day office needs. **MW**

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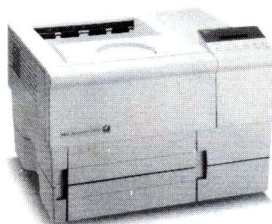
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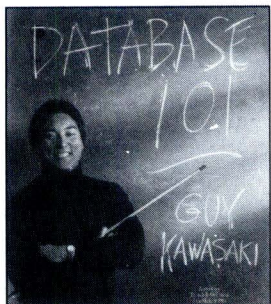
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Database 101

Fun with databases



This book purports to teach you the fundamentals of databases in an easy to learn format. It succeeds admirably, primarily due to the skills of the author, Guy Kawasaki.

By Naor Wallach

Database 101 was written by Guy Kawasaki to serve as a very introductory tutorial to the art of database design and use on microcomputers. Kawasaki is well known to Mac fans as the original Apple evangelist. After that, he resigned from Apple and assisted in starting a company called ACIUS whose flagship product — 4th Dimension — is a multi-user relational database.

Kawasaki is well-known in the Mac world for his sometimes wacky humour. It is one of the features that endeared him to millions of Mac fans. In this book, he lets that notorious humour loose. There are many jokes and double entendres throughout the text that tend to enliven it considerably. This is particularly so in the aforementioned quizzes. All of the quizzes employ a multiple guess answer. It is normally impossible to guess wrong. Here is a sample: "Merging is: (a) the process of entering a freeway. (b) an analog act to continue the human race; (c) combining data from different sources; (d) a Wall Street practice of combining two thriving companies to form a third that is less profitable."

Demo versions of TouchBASE and FileMaker Pro are included in a disk that comes bound to the back cover of the book. Kawasaki frequently refers to them as good examples of what your first database should be like since he considers them as just that — first databases that you will likely outgrow.

If you are a complete computer neophyte who, quite naturally, is somewhat taken aback by the terminology and the technology, then this book is quite appropriate to your needs. It certainly does not assume that you know much of anything. If, on the other hand, you are somewhat computer literate, and have dabbled in other programs, it is still a worthwhile investment. **MV**

Title: Database 101 (ISBN 0-938151-52-5).

Author: Guy Kawasaki.

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Traditional vs Modern

DESIGN

By David Whitbread

Most text designs will either be Traditional or Modern.

'Modern' in this sense is not 'fashionable' or 'trendy', but a specific styling from earlier this century. The style was greatly influenced by the Bauhaus teachers and refined by the Swiss mid-century. It has become the dominant international corporate style.

For 'Traditional' read 'classical', as it is the style based on Italian book and type design from the Renaissance. It has been the dominant styling used for books and can lend an Olde Worlde atmosphere to advertising.

Both styles are used for annual reports because they give particular visual clues to how an organisation wishes to be seen.

The Modern style says an organisation is forward-thinking, at the cutting edge, a bit of a risk-taker, even casual or brash. But it can sometimes be stark and harsh.

The Traditional style, by contrast, implies the organisation has roots and a solid foundation, it values where it has been and can be trusted and respected. Be careful to avoid being seen as pompous or, worse, backward.

Recipe for a Traditional layout

You will need: a good, strong serif typeface (Bembo, Garamond, Times, Baskerville or Palatino will do nicely); a handful of initial drop capitals and *printer's flowers or fleurons* (like Americans, we now call them 'dingbats'); a few fine line rules and lots of capital letters (save for headings and first lines).

If you can get a few *ligatured character pairs* (where letters like 'ff' or 'st' are joined as a set) and *swash characters* (where there is an extra decorative stroke in letters like 'R' or 'Q'), which are sometimes available in a 'specialist' or 'alternative' font, it will add zest to the mixture.

Heavily margin your page layout. The margins should be substantial and relate

to each other, from smallest to largest: the top, the inside, the outside and the bottom margin. The page number should be centred on this bottom margin and the text block.

Prepare your text in a serif typeface with a few italics. Small capitals can be used occasionally for stress or headings within the text.

Gently indent your paragraphs, with no extra space between them.

Now justify your type, leading it generously, and centre your capital letter headings. Your headings might need a little tracking at this stage.

Place in your prepared page layout, being sure to fill each page to a constant page depth, the bottom line as defined by your bottom margin.

Let stand for a while and decide where to put refinements like ligatures and swashes, rules and extra space around your headings. Remember that more space above a heading than below it will keep the heading with its text.

Garnish with a few leafy dingbats and drop initials.

Serves: most books, some manuals and nearly all wedding invitations!

Recipe for a Modern layout

You will need: an extensive sans serif type family (Helvetica, Univers, Frutiger, Gill Sans or Futura will have the range of light, medium, bold, extra bold and italics that are required); a few line rules or bars.

Lightly margin your page layout keeping the top margin and side margins much the same. The bottom margin should be slightly larger. Then divide the text block into two or three even columns, each separated by a narrow gutter.

Prepare your text in a sans serif typeface.

Now set your type *ragged right* (or 'flush left unjustified'), avoiding hyphenation as far as possible, and leading it generously

to separate the sans serif lines for easy consumption.

Divide into paragraphs that are *blocked* ('not indented') and separate them with half to one line space.

Be creative with your headings, carefully avoiding the use of capitals, but being generous with the use of different point sizes and weights. Headings often hang from the top margin line and are separated from the text by a space which creates a text hang line further down the page. The headings will mostly be bolder than the text and italics are usually avoided, except for stress within text.

Place in your prepared page layout, being sure to fill each column comfortably — but don't fill to the bottom, just let the text hang.


Let stand for a while and decide where to put refinements like rules and extra space around your headings.

Garnish to taste with a few geometrical dingbats and the occasional illustration.

Serves: most manuals, magazines and reports, all forms and nearly all corporate identity programs.

Varying the mixture

To get a uniquely flavoured dish, substitute ingredients: mix in serifs or scripts where sans serifs were specified; or add more line rules and typefaces to spice-up the layout.

For more information, Suzanne West's excellent book, *Working with style* (Watson-Guptill Publications, New York, 1990), is recommended. 

David Whitbread is a publications designer and lecturer. David Whitbread Design runs a national series of seminars on design for the computer. For further information, write to: David Whitbread Design, PO Box 3127, Weston Creek ACT 2611 or phone 06 288 5554.

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According to the company, the product is a professional-quality colour image-editing application, which removes the difficulties in obtaining a good image to edit and, once obtained, offers the tools to finish the job.

One of Image Assistant's major features, Assist mode, lets users view the resulting image from a thumbnail view of 15 sample thumbnails representing different settings. By clicking on the sample that looks correct, the image is created. While use of percentages, ratios, and so on are available, this feature allows users to judge by their

own eye, requiring little experience.

Once an image has been obtained, professional users can edit in bi-level, greyscale, RGB, or CMYK. Shrink-to-fit and magic wand tools provide fast, accurate object selection.

Image Assistant automates many previously manual controls. When scanning photos from magazines, the program finds the photo and separates it from unwanted text, crops it, eliminates excess white space, and rotates the photo until its aligned, ready for editing. Background filters also eliminate moiré patterns. If used, the automatic controls allow users to get their scans right first time, claims the company.

For further details about the \$995 package, contact OmniPage Australia on 02 906 4900.



Image Assistant helps even novices choose the right settings from one of 15 thumbnail views on screen.

RasterOps introduces Photoshop accelerator

Hoping to appeal to users of Photoshop, RasterOps has introduced PhotoPro, a RISC-based graphics accelerator board.

According to the company, Mac II series computers equipped with the PhotoPro board will run at the speed of a Quadra 950 when manipulating even the most compute-intensive Adobe Photoshop filters.

Available in both NuBus and daughterboard configurations, the PhotoPro NuBus adaptor works with all 24-bit display products, and supports the RasterOps ProColor 32, 24STV, 24MxTV, and 24XLTV. The company claims that in benchmark tests using a Macintosh IIfx,

PhotoPro, working in compatible mode, performed Photoshop functions at least 400 per cent faster than a Macintosh IIfx. In fast mode, the company claims PhotoPro produced results that were 1000 per cent faster than a Macintosh IIfx.

Minimum system requirements for PhotoPro include a Mac II or Quadra computer running Adobe Photoshop 2.01 or software that supports Photoshop plug-ins.

The PhotoPro NuBus and daughterboard adaptors are available immediately, priced at \$1850 (ex tax). For further information, contact Mitsui on 02 452 0452.

New Crosfield hardware

News from the recent Seybold's Seminar in San Francisco is that the chemical giant DuPont is releasing a series of publishing hardware tools through its Crosfield division. The Crosfield Magnascan PostScript drum scanner and MagnaSetter colour output printer are modular upgradable SCSI devices. The scanner can handle 20 by 25 inch (508 x 635mm) pages and the imagesetter is reported to produce PostScript output in dazzling colours. Local availability has yet to be finalised.

Computers get the brush

Wacom has introduced new versions of its cordless digital tablets for artists who want to work with brush-like tools on a computer. The lightweight cordless pens are sensitive to the user's hand pressure and respond by changing line thickness, colour density or brush shape and size. It actually feels like working with a brush.

Contact local distributor VideoBytes on 03 690 9278 for more details.

Shareware font catalogue

Hyperactive Software is now shipping Volume 3 of The Font Catalog, which includes 100 pages of sample Macintosh shareware fonts.

The Font Catalog Volume 3 has a retail price of \$US11, and can be ordered direct from Hyperactive Software in the US on 612 724 1596.

MULTIMEDIA

CoSA's After Effects

After Effects, software designed to let Macintosh users do video editing and special effects on their computers, was previewed at the recent Macworld Canada expo.

Marketed as a post-production tool by developer the Company of Science & Art (CoSA), the program can take video clips and graphics from various sources and edit and combine them. Features include chroma-keying, which allows all areas of a specified colour to be replaced by a second video signal, and the ability to animate graphic objects.

The software supports full 32-bit colour and can handle large screens. Up to 256 layers of video can be edited together.

Pricing for the software, which is still in development, has not been set yet and a local distributor is still to be appointed.

Sharp's multimedia plans

Sharp has unveiled a series of projects and plans in its strategy to be a major player in multimedia. Sharp says it will double the number of staff members assigned its multimedia division, making it the largest research division in the firm. It has also invested in super-minicomputers for the development of multimedia software and hardware.

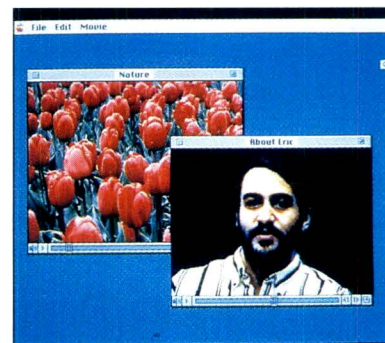
QuickTime upgrade included in System 7.1

The new QuickTime 1.5 multimedia extension is now shipping with System 7.1 and includes enhanced integration capabilities and higher compression ratios, Apple has announced. Improved compression ratios allow video playback in a window four times larger than was previously possible.

QuickTime 1.5 also offers support for full-screen, full-motion digital video cards; integrated support for Kodak's Photo CD and network data handling; 1-bit fast dithering for playback on mono screens such as those on the PowerBook computer; generic media handlers for creation of new movie-track types; and closed captioning.

QuickTime 1.5 will run on any of the four million Macintosh colour-capable computers with a Motorola 68020 or higher microprocessor with System 6.0.7, System 7.0, or System 7.1, and 2 Mbytes of memory.

QuickTime 1.5 is included with the System 7.1 Update Kit, the System 7 Personal Upgrade Kit and the System 7 MultiPack and is also available on the developer CD from AAPDA (02 452 8045). Version 1.5 is also available separately from Apple resellers or from Apple itself (008 025280) for a nominal fee of \$15 covering materials, labour, postage and handling.



Daughter board for full motion video

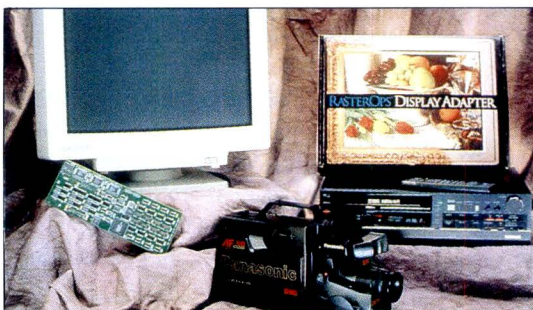
Moviepak is the name RasterOps has given to its new daughterboard that connects to RasterOps' video display adaptors and allows real-time compression and decompression of full-screen, full-motion video on the Mac.

The company says the advantage of the new daughterboard is that Mac users can migrate to digital video systems by adding the Moviepak without replacing their existing video hardware.

The JPEG chipset does the compression and decompression at ratios varying from 2:1 for a maximum image quality to 160:1 which maximises the compression at the expense of some image quality. Colour conversion is integrated into the chipset as well, RasterOps added.

RasterOps recommends the Moviepak board be coupled with the company's Mediatime board that offers 16-bit digital audio. The Mediatime board (\$4094) has a digital signal processor (DSP) chip included to free up the Macintosh's central processing unit (CPU).

MoviePak costs \$3395. For further information, contact Mitsui on 02 452 0452.

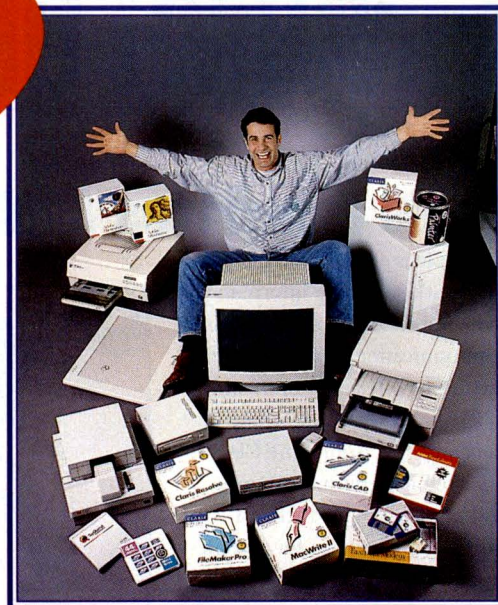


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TERMS & CONDITIONS

Entries must be on the official subscription form, residents of South Australia exempt. First prize comprises of 24 hardware and software products making up the 'The Ultimate Desktop System'. The prize is not transferable or exchangeable for cash. There are no second or third prizes. Competition closes 5pm 23 December 1992. Winner will be decided by a barrel draw on 15 January 1993. Winner will be notified by telephone and if not on the telephone then they will be contacted via telegram on 15 January 1993. Competition results will be published in the February 1993 editions of MacNews & Desktop magazines. Directors, management and employees of Niche Publishing along with their families, as well as participating retailers, suppliers and associated companies are not eligible to enter the 'Win the Ultimate Desktop System' competition. The judge's decision is final, no correspondence will be entered into. Raffles & Bingo Permits board permit number 92/2406 issued on 15/9/92. NT92/1223. TP 92/1440. TC 92/4005.

FINDING OUT

Multimedia phone directory

US telecom company Bell Atlantic has announced it will field-test a phone directory using CD-ROM technology early next year. About 300 households will get the chance to use Philips' CD-I gear, connected to their home TVs, in the test.

The prototype system uses text, graphics, animation, full-motion video and sound, under the Compact Disc-Interactive standard pioneered by Philips. In the test, players will be supplied free, and discs will contain up to a million residential listings, more than 300,000 business listings, and about 1000 display advertisements, including many with multimedia presentations. For more details, contact Bell Atlantic in the US on 301 493 3134.

Ricoh's re-writable CD drive

Japan's major office equipment maker Ricoh says it has developed a CD drive which allows the users to rewrite data. The CD drive, called the RS9200CD, has a special feature called 'Incremental write.' With this feature, the CD drive accepts the writing of data in large quantities at one time. The CD drive has a 650 Mbyte capacity. Retail price for the drive is 500,000 yen (\$5308). Ricoh is hoping to ship 500 units per month.

For more information, contact Ricoh in Japan on 81 3 3479 3111.

Apple announces AppleLink CD-ROM

Apple is attempting to find new markets for the information in its AppleLink global electronic communications and information service, by offering it in the form of a compact disc. According to the company, AppleLink CD will offer regular editions of Apple and third-party product and support information for a single annual subscription fee.

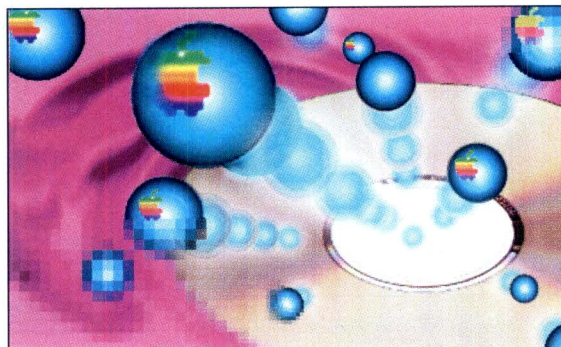
One of the big attractions of the new CD, according to Apple, is that anyone with a Macintosh equipped with a CD-ROM drive can access all the technical, product, program and special interest information without time limitations or added costs.

There will be a yearly one-time fee. Each edition of AppleLink CD will include a technical information library. Also included on the CD will be descriptions of Apple products, and technical, marketing and support materials from more than 400 hardware and software manufacturers.

Apple says that a special software sampler section will contain 15 Mbytes of Apple software updates, as well as free software and shareware for the Macintosh. Users will be able to download free software demonstrations and review new software programs.

AppleLink CD requires a Macintosh computer running System 6.0.7 or later and a Macintosh-compatible CD-ROM drive. Four Mbytes of RAM is also required.

AppleLink CD will be available worldwide in January 1993, although local pricing for the single-user and multi-user versions of the product has yet to be determined.



Telecom accused of "killing" videotex service

Telecom has been accused of killing its videotex service, currently known as Discovery. Paul Budde, the developer of the first marketing plan for what was then Viatel, has claimed it was Telecom's greed which saw the popularity of the service decline, and that plans are now afoot to close the service.

Budde accuses Telecom of using its monopoly to force information providers out of the market or to sell to it.

Budde says many service providers asked Telecom to help establish a strong videotex industry, but to no avail. In 1990, after Viatel

began its slide, Telecom renamed it Discovery, and focused its marketing on business users. Despite the change, the decline continued, while videotex services around the world reported massive growth unheard of in Australia. With a large number of disgruntled former and current users, the system has declined to the point, where "Telecom decided to pull the plug," Budde said.

Budde expects parts of Discovery to be absorbed by other departments within AOTC, but that a videotex service as such will not be offered.

Who on earth is Connecting Point



Actually, we're not in too many places on earth – just Victoria and New South Wales. However, if you're looking for an Apple reseller that's going places, one big enough to provide the full service, support and advice that you need, then Connecting Point should be on your list.

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FINDING OUT

New CD puts the world on a platter

An American artist has taken the rows and columns of numbers from various databases that represent information about our planet and, with programming staff, put the information into a visual format on a CD-ROM disc for display on a Macintosh. The project is called The Global Change Atlas and yields some surprising as well as beautiful results.

Tom Van Sant, a Californian sculpture, painter, and muralist came up with the idea which he describes as a scientific visualisation project. Funded by Northern Telecom, The Global Change Atlas was first displayed at the Earth Summit in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil.

The program displays information such as the global weather patterns, ocean currents, seasons, the cities of the earth as seen from space, population, culture, and more. It starts with the earth in a flat topographical view like a wall map, and five mini-globes at the bottom of the screen offer the viewer choices to view information on climate, population, land animals, sea animals, and global problems.

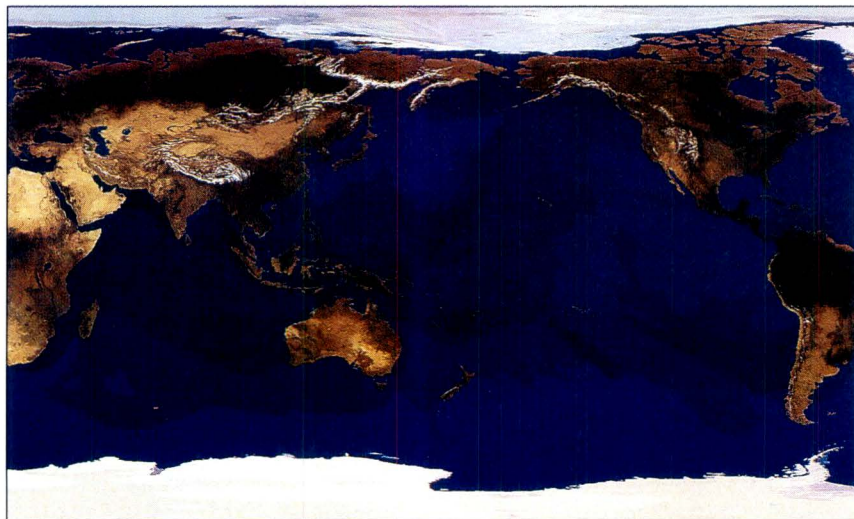
Each mini-globe can be turned by clicking with the mouse so a specific aspect of the five categories can be viewed. A double click on an aspect selects it, which produces choices on the

large global map — each of which can be clicked on for viewing. The choices appear in the form of written information or a still photo.

Written in Smalltalk and the Tigre programming environment, The Global Change Atlas is simply a visual interpretation of the databases of information supplied by US government agencies, such as NASA, US Geological Survey, and NOAA. The program is data-driven so that as the information changes, it can be entered in or downloaded and the changes can then be reflected in the program. The program is also still under development and is in a prototype form, Van Sant added.

The Global Change Atlas features views of the earth from space, posters of which are locally available through The Wilderness Society (59 Hardware St, Melbourne 3000, ph 03 670 2867) for \$25 (unlaminated) and \$33 (laminated), plus \$2.50 postage and handling, and blockmounted for \$65 plus \$7.50 postage and handling.

For further information on The Geosphere Project write to 146 Entrada Drive, Santa Monica, CA 90402, or contact the Project in the US on 310 459 4342.



The earth as seen from space. Database information has been translated into visual form in the Global Change Atlas, a prototype program on CD-ROM disc. Posters of the image above are available from The Wilderness Society.

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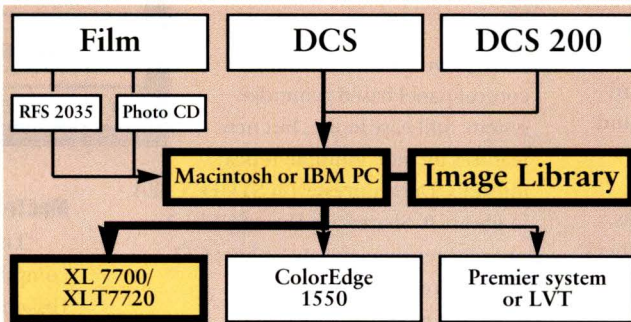
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PROFESSIONAL IMAGING



Cure your INIT envy



By Graham Cottew

Ever wondered where all those fancy icons come from as they flash across and up in rows when someone else's Mac boots up? A quick sift through CompuServe's Macintosh System Software Forums will introduce you to many of these Control Panels, INITs and Extensions that you may have already seen, and then some more I can guarantee that you haven't.

There's been a major reorganisation of the Macintosh Forums which, it is hoped, will make the forums easier to use. There are two new forums, new libraries and of course new files.

System Software

The first new forum is the Macintosh System Software Forum (GO MACSYS). This new Forum now includes all System 7.0 interests as well as earlier Systems. (The MacSeven Forum no longer exists). Go to the System Software Forum to talk about such things as INITs/Extensions, Control Panels, desk accessories and function keys, aliasing and icons, fonts, system conflicts, QuickTime and much more!

Hardware

The second new forum is the totally new Macintosh Hardware Forum (GO MACHW). In this Forum there are discussions about everything from hard disks to monitors, printers, scanners and other peripherals. There are sections devoted to talking about the various models of Macs including PowerBooks, Performas and even the new PDAs. Check the libraries there for such things as PowerBook-specific files, screensavers for your monitors, backup programs for your disks and all such hardware-related items.

The following files were all downloaded from library 4 (Control Panels) of the MACSYS forum, with the exception of Savvy from library 3 (INITs/Extensions).

MenuChoice

A small control panel device MenuChoice makes folders in your Apple Menu Items folder show up as submenus under the Apple menu. It also features a Recent menu, which holds the last 10 items used. Submenus can be sorted with folders separate from other items. This version fixes compatibility with various applications and now lets you create new aliases from the Apple Menu. It has a Shareware price of \$US15.

TearOFF

This allows menus to be torn off in any application. TearOFF can tear hierarchical menus as well and is great for large monitors. Save yourself from those long trips to the menubar. TearOFF is compatible with NowMenus. This file may be de-archived with EXTRAC.BIN in library 0.

Savvy

This tiny ingenious hack is by Joel West of Palomar Software from MacHack Conference '92. In the Get Info box it will tell you if the application is 32-bit clean, and/or System 7 savvy.

Notify

Version 3.02 of the Notify control-panel-based reminder system. Still easy to use, but new features include multiple repeat intervals. Decompress with STUFEX.SEA, in library 0. Shareware fee is \$US10. You can register this software online: GO SWREG, register ID #284.

System 7 Pack

A suite of seven utilities. Included are Finder Copies (300 per cent faster); Change Finder Command Keys; Application Substitution (enabling, for example, MacWrite to open Microsoft Word); Get rid of ZoomRects!; Get rid of

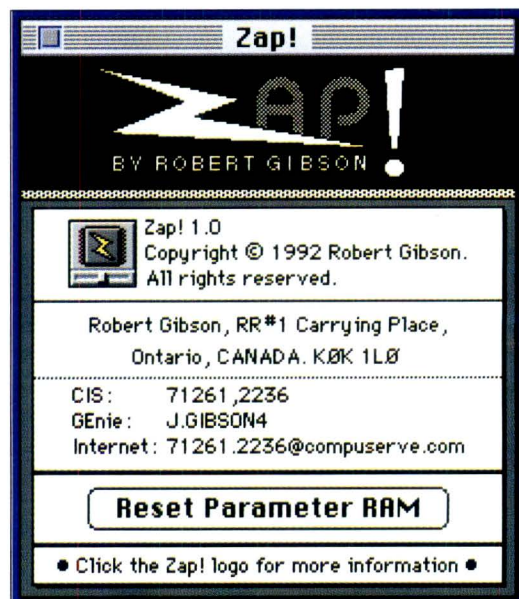
Rename Delay!; and Get rid of annoying dialogue boxes!

SCSI Probe 3.4

Yet another upgrade to the popular disk mounting INIT by Robert Polic. Significant enhancements include close driver on eject, better documents, adjustable columns in display, and more. De-archive with STUFEX.SEA in library 0.

Zap It!

Zap the PRAM through a Control Panel. It actually works with all systems after 6.0.X, inclusive. May be de-archived with UNSTUF.SEA in library 0.

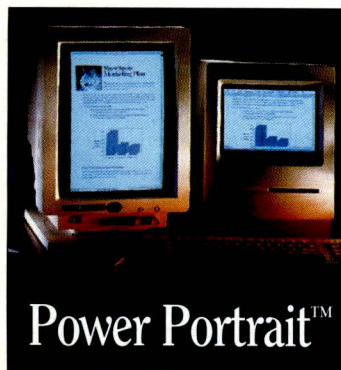
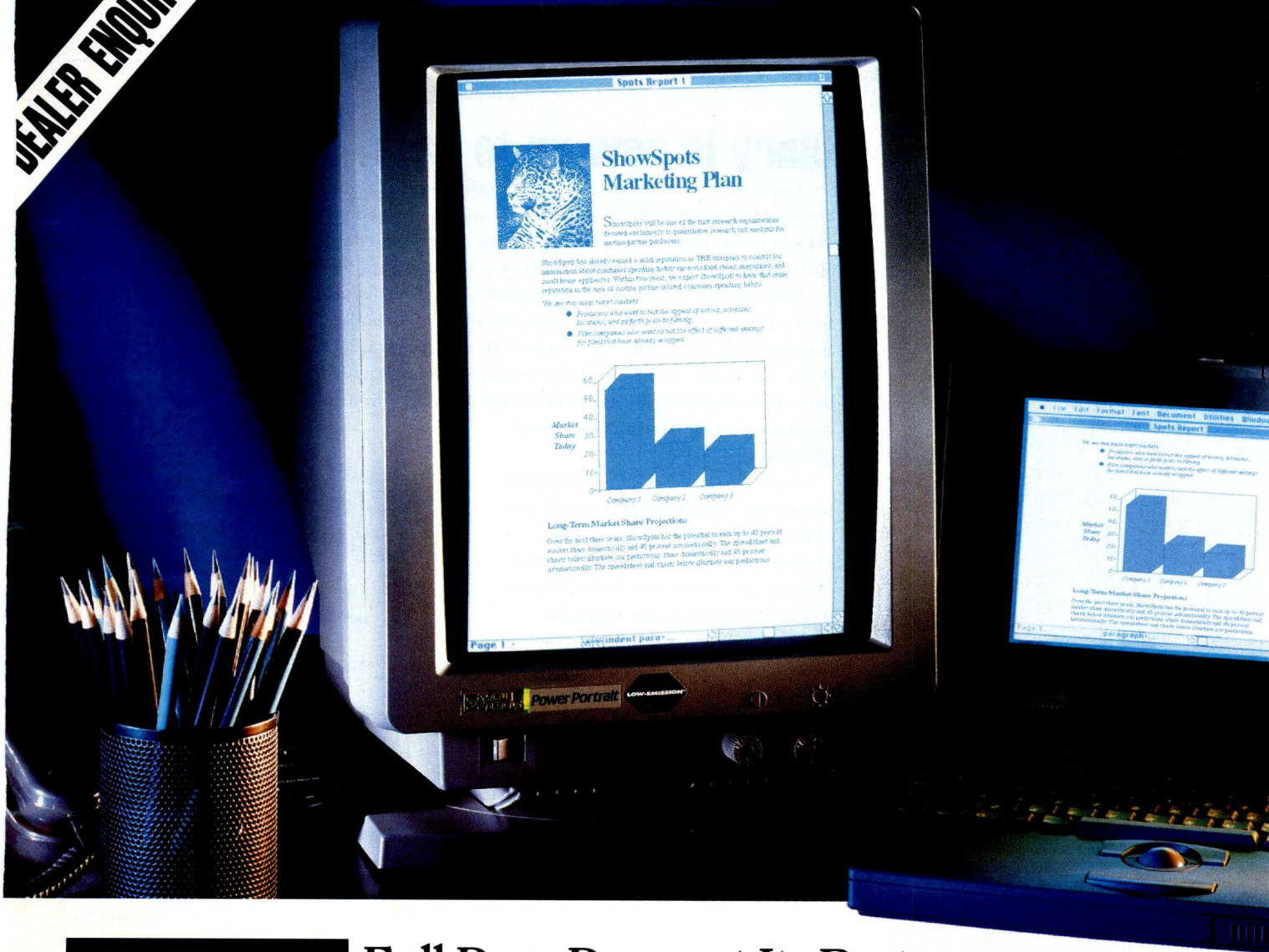


MacTricks

'The Macintosh Secret Trick List' compiled by Brian Kendig (bskendig@phoenix.Princeton.EDU) can be de-archived with STUFEX.SEA in library 0. This is a list of secrets for the Mac, from hardware to software — this is the list for all you hackers out there. There are some really great tricks included, and some surprises for even the most blasé Mac guru. **MM**

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PRODUCTIVITY

First Things Third

With the number of calendar-type programs increasing each month, Visionary Software is marketing its popular First Things First upgrade, version 3.0, as 'the un-calendar'.

The program is aimed at users who don't want steep learning curves, but still want plenty of functionality. Version 3.0 includes animated floating clock choices, more flexible scheduling and reminder choices, a global find command, among over a dozen major improvements. The full version with manuals comes with DynoPage Lite, a page formatting program, for \$99.95. The 'environmentally friendly' (no manuals) version sells for \$69.95.

For more details, contact PICA Software on 03 326 5255.

Lights, camera, screensaver

Screensaver from MIFP Development, is a unique screensaver program that uses colour photographs.

The program comes with a library of photographs, and uses Apple's QuickTime compression/decompression technology. In addition to the starter set, add-on image sets with additional photographs are available.

Twelve photographs are included in the starter set. The add-on sets are available in various themes, including wildlife, undersea life, pets, and landscapes.

An Australian distributor has not yet been appointed. Contact MIFP in the US on 503-292-0362.

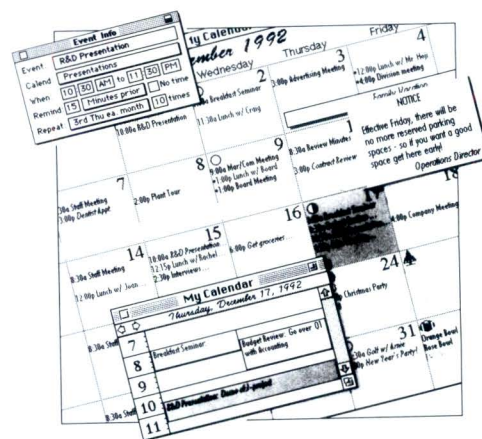
Diary is now up to date

Now Software has updated its popular calendar application — Now Up-to-Date Version 2.0. Features integrated To-Do lists, WYSIWYG appointment book printing, offline editing of shared events, AlarmsClock integration, and the ability to import and export calendars to the Sharp Wizard, as well as many enhancements to its existing features.

Now Up-to-Date allows users to schedule appointments, manage To-Do lists, set reminders, share calendar information over networks, and print calendars for appointment books. In addition, Now Up-to-Date functions in both workgroup and stand-alone modes (through Public and Private Events), and even provides automatic updating of shared events. On this basis, users with PowerBooks can take their calendars with them and even create and edit Public Events when disconnected from the network.

Now Up-to-Date's Reminder function now includes AlarmsClock, formerly part of the Now Utilities collection. This integration provides the ability to see all of the appointments and To-Do list items scheduled for a given day simply by clicking on the clock provided in the menu bar.

Now Up-to-Date 2.0 is available now for \$179, and multi-user packs are available. For further details, contact Trio Technology on 03 585 0566.



New software makes everyone an expert

Expert Software has begun shipping the third and final member of its Expert Design series — Expert Office Design.

These moderately-priced programs allow almost anyone who is comfortable with Macintosh drawing tools to design their own environments. The first two titles in the series were Expert Home Design and Expert Landscape Design.

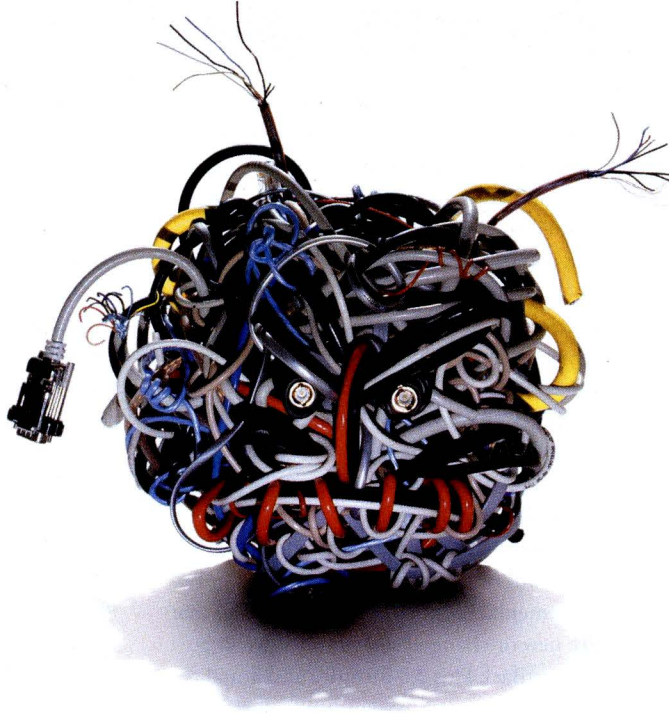
Expert Office Design shares the same philosophy and same look and feel as the other programs in the series. In fact, all three programs are essentially the same, with different libraries of objects as the main difference. You can place any of the objects from the library anywhere on a drawing in any orientation you wish. You can also resize the various objects, import any PICT

formatted image or draw your own graphics in case of special needs.

The library contains the outlines of over 100 different items that are commonly found in offices. Data can be organised in layers so that presentations can be devised in order to illustrate why certain configurations were chosen. The user has 256 colours and many fill patterns to distinguish between various devices. The program supports multiple layers so that different elements can be placed on different layers and added gradually to the plan for clarity of presentation and to allow separate elements to be printed.

The Expert Design series is currently available from MacDirect (008 021 260) at \$99 per title.

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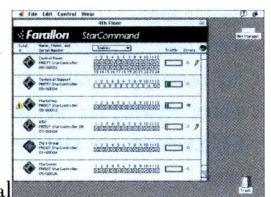


same reliability and network management capabilities that have made Farallon the industry leader.

We've also added some new features. For example, you can use our enhanced StarCommand™ 3.0 software to manage hubs over the network or through a fault-tolerant bus. And if you ever do have a problem, StarCommand tells you where it is and perhaps more importantly, how to fix it.

Of course, if you're thinking about growth, you may be considering Ethernet. Farallon's

StarController Ethernet hub lets you add 10BASE-T when and where you need it most. You can manage Ethernet and LocalTalk hubs with the same copy of StarCommand.



And all of our hubs are designed for even further expansion. You can mount any StarController you buy today in the PhoneNET® concentrators now under development.

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Utilities open to public

Fifth Generation Systems has released Public Utilities, a preventive maintenance and recovery software program for the Mac. According to the company, Public Utilities can help users of all levels protect against and recover from potentially damaging disk problems. The program periodically scans hard disks in the background, doing its work when the processor is idle, to find potential problems. Once a problem is noted, the program displays a message on screen, and can also make recommendations about how to fix the problem. The user can also set the program to scan for problems when the computer is turned on or at shutdown. The \$177 program is compatible with System 6.0.2 and higher. For further information, contact the distributors, Merisel (02 882 8888) or Next for Mac (02 530 6082).

WordPerfect grabs BeagleWorks

WordPerfect has entered the integrated packages market with the announcement it has acquired BeagleWorks from Beagle Bros. A WordPerfect spokesperson said that the company's strategy is to provide a works offering for multiple platforms. BeagleWorks will also be renamed, he said.

Backing up gets easier to do

Backup programs Retrospect and FastBack are in the news this month with Dantz Development's release of a streamlined entry-level version of Retrospect and Fifth Generation Systems' major revision of FastBack Plus.

Intended for users who want basic but efficient Macintosh backup, Dantz's DiskFit Direct is being introduced at an attractive price of \$79.

DiskFit Direct provides an exact Finder-readable copy of the hard disk on an organised 'SmartSet' of floppy disks or other removable media.

Users may elect to back up documents only and/or selected folders. Subsequent incremental backups copy only the files that are new or changed since the last backup.

FastBack Plus 3.0 includes additional tape drive support, a snapshot feature that lets the user be more specific about what to restore, a copy function that lets users back up files in Finder-readable format, and an erase feature that allows the user to erase all selected files without backing them up first. Files to be backed up can be displayed and sorted in the 'Choose Files' window by name, size, kind, label, and creation or modification date.

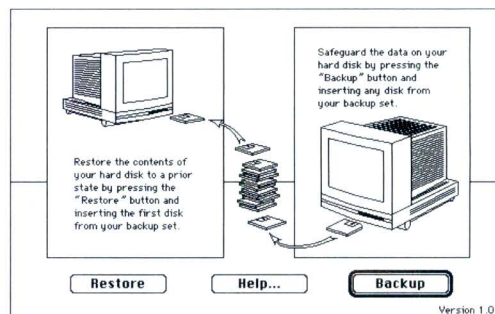
There is also a new Server menu which allows the network administrator to schedule unattended backups. If the

backup is scheduled during operating hours, the administrator can schedule a broadcast message to the users warning them of the impending backup, take the server offline, perform the backup, and restart the server, all without being present.

There is also a more basic version FastBack Express, doesn't offer Archive or Purge modes, but offers all the other backup choices. Under System 7 or with Multifinder under System 6, Express operates in the background. FastBack Plus 3.0 costs \$250, while FastBack Express costs \$127.

For further information on FastBack, contact the distributors, Merisel (02 882 8888) or Next for Mac (02 530 6082). For more information on DiskFit Direct contact Conexus on 03 888 5822 or 02 975 2799.

DiskFit Direct, an entry-level version of Retrospect, simplifies the backup process



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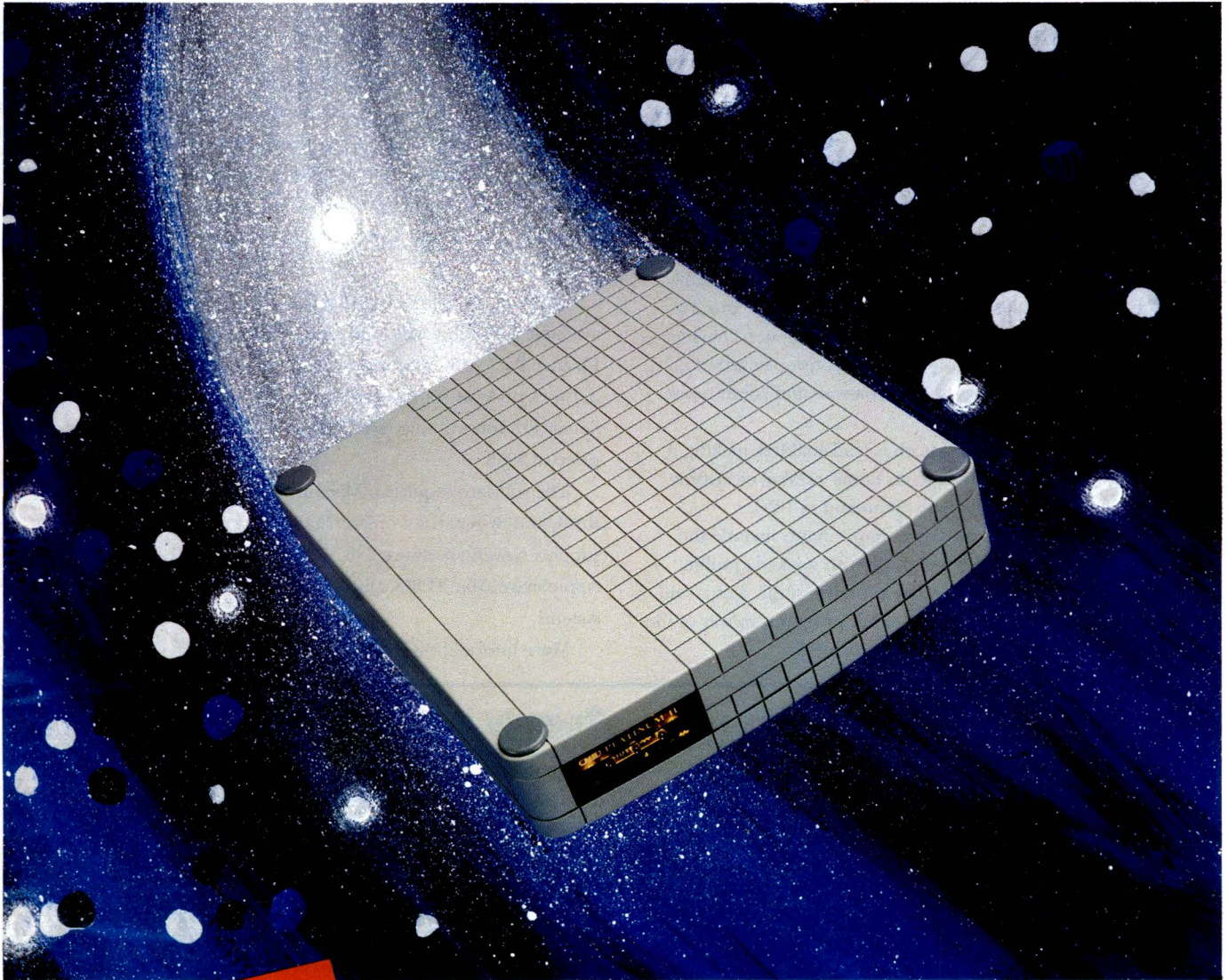
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CMS Enhancements Platinum II Series latest design includes front LED, and controls for SCSI ID selection and Termination.

No matter what your needs, there is a CMS Platinum drive to suit your External SCSI configuration from 20, 40, 100, 200, 320, 650 and 1000 Megabyte. CMS drives are designed for the Macintosh Plus, SE, SE/30, II, IIx, IIcx, IIci, IIfx, LC, Classic and Quadra.

CMS state of the art Platinum products with SUM II[®] disk utilities by

Symantec[®] has the ability to recover deleted files, partition the drive, encrypt data files and password protect files, providing added safety to your system. Hard Disk optimization increases performance by minimising long disk seeks to recover fragmented files.

All drives come initialised and formatted along with cables, CMS utility software, includes SUM II, 1 year warranty and auto boot from drive.

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Lotus updates 1-2-3 for Macintosh

Lotus has announced that Release 1.1 of its 1-2-3 for Macintosh spreadsheet software is now available.

In announcing the new release, Lotus claimed improvements in ease of use, through features such as the ability to drag and drop a user-defined area anywhere within a three-dimensional spreadsheet file, not just on the same sheet.

The company also touted release 1.1's new copy right, copy down, and copy back features, which it said allow users to copy and paste across multiple cells with a single command. In a 3D worksheet, the copy back command performs one-step copying through stacked worksheets. Another new feature, SmartSum, automatically sums entire tables, both row-wise and column-wise, with one command.

Version 1.1 of 1-2-3 for Macintosh is mail-enabled, making it possible to send a file and message via Lotus' cc:Mail electronic mail software using a special menu command in 1-2-3.

Release 1.1's graphics handling enhancements include the ability to fill a traditional solid bar graph with stacked graphic images or to place any graphic image behind a graph, Lotus said. These images can be imported from other programs by way of the Macintosh clipboard, a spokeswoman explained.

Users may also directly resize any text on a graph by dragging the text handles. A user can reveal the source data for a graph by dragging the bottom edge of the graph frame upward. Release 1.1 also supports playback of QuickTime movies on a 1-2-3 worksheet.

Additional features include a new automated installer and the ability to translate and import SYLK and Tabbed Text files into a worksheet.

1-2-3 for Macintosh 1.1 Standard Edition is immediately available through retailers at a suggested retail price of \$755. A Licence Pack, which provides a licence for installation as a network node or stand-alone use, is also available POA. The Server Edition will ship later, Lotus said, with a suggested retail price of \$955.

The software requires a Macintosh with a hard disk, 3 Mbytes RAM, and System 6.0.4 or later. Lotus said the package will support Novell's Netware 286 or Netware 386, 3Com 3+ Open, AppleShare, Mac TOPS, and DEC Pathworks network operating systems.

More information is available from Merisel on 02 882 8888.

The first PDA...and it's not an Apple

Cont. from 12

— they're too large and costly. We can, with our cards, put 10 Mbytes on each card, and any mix of applications on those cards."

The initial DBS retail package will include two digital books — Merriam-Webster's *Dictionary Plus* dictionary and thesaurus, which has over 274,000 definitions and 496,000 synonyms, and *Word Games*, which plays 10 challenging word games. Also immediately available is the *Video Companion*, a guide to 7000 movies available on videotape, and *The Medical Letter Handbook of Adverse Drug Interactions*. The company hopes to add 50 titles over the next 12 months, at prices ranging from \$US29 to \$US129.

The DBS-1 weighs about .13 kg, and is about the shape of an index card. Using Franklin's data compression technology, the DBS-1 can store up to 90 Mbytes of information in two removable, interactive 'Digital Books.' The DBS-1 measures 8cm by 13cm by 2cm, and is powered by lithium batteries. The company says the DBS-1 will operate up to one year of normal use on those batteries. Data is viewed on a five-line LCD flat screen, which can handle variable fonts and graphics. In addition, up to 60 lines of text can be entered into the DBS-1's built-in independent notepad.

Contact Franklin Electronic Publishers in the US on 609 261 4800 for more information.

Speedy data transfer at low cost

Hewlett-Packard and AT&T's Microelectronics division have announced the development of 100 megabits per second (Mbits/s) transmission technology over voice grade, unshielded twisted pair (UTP) cabling. Both companies claim this is a first.

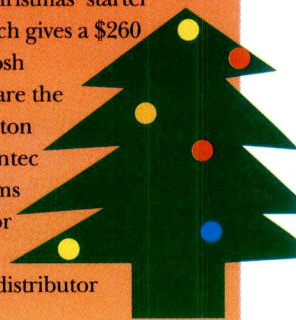
Current technology requires that 100 Mbits networking use data grade UTP or shielded cabling. This, the company claims, requires the user to install new networking if such high speeds are to be achieved. Most low speed network users already have UTP cabling in place, so moving to the higher speed is relatively painless.

All being well, how long before the computer industry sees real technology available in the market that supports 100 Mbits/s? Neither company is saying, though sources close to H-P suggest the technology may make its appearance during 1993.

Christmas starts here

Symantec has announced a special Christmas 'starter pack' offer, valid until December 21, which gives a \$260 saving on the company's leading Macintosh software packages. Included in the offer are the integrated program GreatWorks 2.0; Norton Utilities for the Macintosh 2.0; and Symantec AntiVirus for Macintosh 3.0. The programs are available as a bundle from resellers for \$359.

For further information, contact the distributor Merisel on 02 882 8888.



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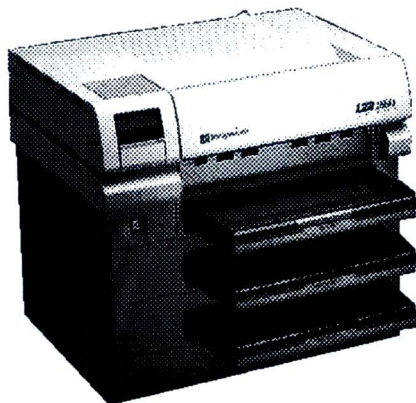
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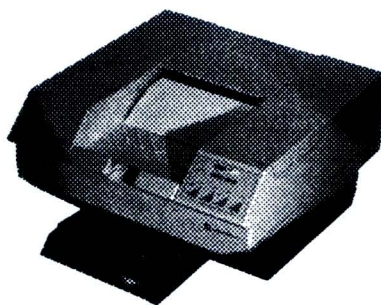
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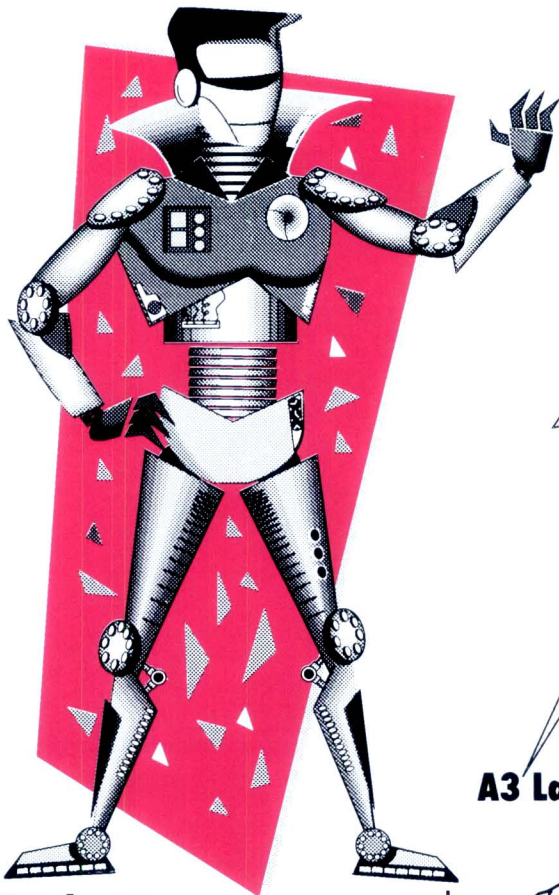
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Rocket 33 (68040 Quadra 950 Speed) 33Mhz With Maths Co-Processor - for MacII Series	\$4390	\$3750
Transwarp 40i (68030 Processor) 40Mhz No Maths Co-Processor - for MacLC & LCII	\$1760	\$1495
Transwarp 40 (68030 Processor) 40Mhz With Maths Co-Processor - for MacLC & LCII	\$2190	\$1850
Transwarp 25SE (68030 Processor) 25 Mhz With Maths Co-Processor for MacSE	\$1560	\$1295

A4 Laser Printers



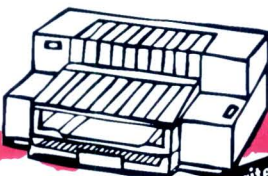
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QMS PS815 (True 600 dpi & Adobe PS) A4, Single Bin Auto Switches Mac & IBM, 6MB	\$4650	\$3950
QMS PS825 (True 600 dpi & Adobe PS) A4, Dual Bin Auto Switches Mac & IBM, 6MB	\$4850	\$4150

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Inkjet Printers



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HP Deskwriter (300 dpi Black & White) A4, Laser Quality printer, 3 yr warranty, AppleTalk	\$965	\$825
HP Deskwriter "C" (300 dpi Colour) A4, As above but uses Colour or Black cartridges	\$1350	\$1150
HP Deskwriter 550C (New Colour) A4, As above but uses Colour and Black cartridges	\$1795	\$1495
HP Paintjet XL300 (New A3 Colour) A3, Hi-Res Printer using Colour and Black cartridges	\$5890	\$4950
Canon BJC800 (New A3 Colour Inkjet) A3, Hi-Res Printer using Colour and Black cartridges	\$4490	\$3790

Colour Postscript Printers



	Inc Tax	Ex Tax
QMS Colorscript Model 10 (A4) A4, Thermal wax colour printer, 5MB Ram, P.Script	\$8750	\$7490
CalComp 6603 (A4) (Enhanced) A4, Thermal wax colour printer, 6MB Ram, P.Script	\$10200	\$8750
Dataproducts Jolt (Solid Ink Tech.) A4, P.ScriptII, uses Solid Ink for brilliant colours	\$8950	\$7590
QMS Colorscript Model 30i (A3) A3, Thermal wax colour printer, 8MB Ram, P.Script	\$12500	\$10500
CalComp 6613 (A3) (Enhanced) A3 Thermal wax colour printer, 10MB Ram, P.Script	\$13950	\$11950

Colour Scanners



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AVR 8000 CLX (Inc PhotoShop Plugin) 800 dpi A4, 24 bit Colour & GS, Inc SCSI kit	\$2590	\$2250
AVR 8000 CLX (With full PhotoShop 2) As above but full P/Shop2 & Picture Press, 2 yr Gt	\$3195	\$2750
Microtek 600Zs (With full PhotoShop2) 600 dpi A4, 24 bit Colour & GS, Inc ScanMatch	\$2550	\$2150
Sharp JX320 (PhotoShop Plugin only) 600 dpi A4, 24 bit Colour & GS, Inc SCSI kit	\$2650	\$2250
UMax 1200s (1200 dpi with Trannie) Hi-Res, 30bit/pixel, inc Trannie Adapter, SCSI	\$7950	\$6950

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Fujitsu 330 MB Internal (5yr G/Tee) Hi-Speed SCSI2 drive, <12 ms, lightning fast	\$1895	\$1650
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Fujitsu 1.1GB Internal (5yr G/Tee) Suits Quadra 900, Hi Speed Heavy Duty server use.	\$3995	\$3450
Fujitsu 1.7GB Internal (5yr G/Tee) Suits Quadra 900, Hi Speed Heavy Duty server use.	\$6750	\$5760

EXTERNAL DRIVES	Inc Tax	Ex Tax
Refitted Apple 40MB External Trade-In drive with 6month G/Tee. New Case	\$370	\$395
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Fujitsu 425 MB External (5yr G/Tee) Hi-Speed SCSI2 drive, <12 ms, lightning fast	\$2295	\$1965
Fujitsu 520 MB External (5yr G/Tee) Hi-Speed SCSI2 drive, <12 ms, lightning fast	\$2550	\$2200
Fujitsu 1.1GB External (5yr G/Tee) Suits All Macs, Hi Speed Heavy Duty server use.	\$4250	\$3650
Fujitsu 1.7GB External (5yr G/Tee) Suits All Macs, Hi Speed Heavy Duty server use.	\$6950	\$5960

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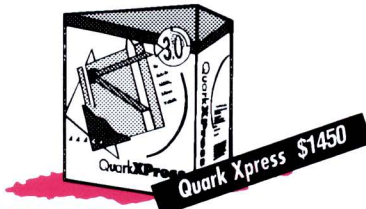


STANDARD RAM MODULES	Inc Tax	Ex Tax
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2Mb SIMM Modules (Lifetime G/Tee) 80ns 2Mb RAM for LC, LCII, Si, ClassicII - (Not IIfx)	\$127	\$110
4Mb SIMM Modules (Lifetime G/Tee) 80ns 4Mb RAM for ClassicII to Quadra 950 - Not IIfx	\$199	\$179

POWERBOOK RAM MODULES	Inc Tax	Ex Tax
2Mb SIMM Modules (Lifetime G/Tee) 80ns 2Mb RAM for Powerbook 100 to 170	\$225	\$195

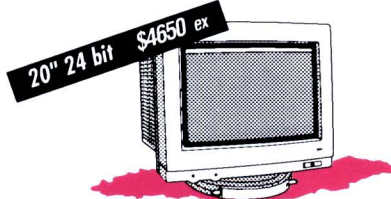
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Sharp JX320 Colour Scanner Inc PhotoShop plugin & other S/Ware	\$2379	\$1995
HP Scanjet IIc Colour Scanner Inc PhotoShop plugin & DeskScan S/Ware	\$2150	\$1795
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Datapoints LZR960 Printer 300 dpi Dual Bin 4MB Ram, Adobe Postscript 2	\$3300	\$2750

Back-up Devices



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TAPE BACK-UP UNITS	Inc Tax	Ex Tax
Polaris 250MB Tape (With Retrospect) Inc 250MB Tape, SCSI Cable & Retrospect Software	\$1645	\$1395
DAT TAPE BACK-UP DRIVES	Inc Tax	Ex Tax
Polaris 1.3/2GB DAT Drive Unit Inc 1.3GB DAT Tape, Cables & Retrospect Software	\$3150	\$2650
PLI 4GB DAT Drive (With Retrospect) Inc 4GB DAT Tape, Cables & Retrospect Software	\$3550	\$2995
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